Cont. from

3-6A

War Diary. 13.2.40.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

The Danube.

The Admiralty papers dealing with the subject of Allied assistance to Rumania in the event of her becoming involved in hostilities were examined on 13/2/40. Further examination will be made at intervals.

N.I.D. 0449. (in N.I.D. 0071/40).

The Operations envisaged are

(a) Denial of supplies to the enemy.

(b) Active resistance to enemy water borne attack.

Germany is the principal enemy but the secret co-operation of Russia is borne in mind.

Action already initiated.

Denial of supplies to the enemy.

Destruction of oil wells and resources.
Blocking the Danube.
Anglo-French river craft.
Destruction of craft belonging to other nationalities.
Denying the use of craft and facilities to the enemy by commercial methods. (Being done under direction of Lord Hankey and by the British Minister, Bucharest.).

Active resistance to enemy water borne and aerial attack.

It is believed that the Germans are rearming vessels of Czech and Austrian origin which used to operate on the river. It is known that they have sent guns and ammunition to the river mouth for arming the German merchant ships which are trading in Black Sea.
In addition, it is thought the Germans will use fast motor boats and a/c's, which will race down the river to prevent our operations. With this in mind the following action has been taken:-

(a) Roumanians have completed a gun battery commanding the Narrows.
(b) Arrangements are being made to withdraw two gunboats from China for Danube operations (N.I.D. 01767/39).

(c) Proposal for more gunboats. (N.I.D. 002350/39).

(d). Question of A.A. defence raised (N.I.D. 004/40).

(e) Secret Service all planning to arm certain tugs on the river.

(f) Construction of special mines (N.I.D.004/40).

(g) Use of gyro controlled M.B's loaded with explosive charges, instead of torpedoes which are unsuitable for the shallow waters. (N.I.D. 002350/39).

13.2.40.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS (Contd.).

A War Cabinet Sub-Committee has been appointed to deal with the subject, and departmental committees of the three fighting services dealing with their respective parts in the action. The Naval committee is termed the Admiralty Danube Committee; it has no definite terms of reference, but M/N.I.D. 0071/40 indicates the scope of its activities.

The Navy is concerned with operations to be conducted on the Danube.

The Object of the operations is to deny the facilities of the River to the enemy.

Plan of Naval Operations to embrace following considerations.

(a) Blocking of river if possible.

(b) Arming of tugs, motor-boats etc., for offensive operations.

(c) Evacuation of part of Allied River Fleet.

(d) Destruction of remainder of Allied River Fleet.

(e) Laying Mines.

(f) Destruction of river craft belonging to other nationals.

The organisation should include the following details:-

(g) Allocation and manning of craft for fighting, blocking, mining, destruction or evacuation of vessels.

(h) Stations for the above.

(i) Positions of minefields.

(j) Escape of personnel from Roumania after completion of operations.

Active Defence.

Certain equipment (arms and ammunition) to be sent.
Two fast motor boats with crews have been supplied to N.A.
Questions of personnel, destruction material, financial arrangements.
Introduction of gunboats impracticable before the commencement of operations. Motor torpedo boats unsuitable.

War Diary. 30.1.40.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS (Contd.).

Security Measures to be taken for the Danube River Fleet.

The Craft:- 111 tugs, tanks and Schleppes (23 British, 88 French) of which 86 are evacuable and 25 not evacuable.
The safety measures to be taken in case the Roumanians should become involved in an armed conflict must consist either of evacuation of part of material to a safe place or destruction on the spot of the whole of the River Fleet.

Papers. M/N.I.D. 0071/40 Danube etc. Activities. War Cabinet Sub-Committee.

N.I.D. 00317/40. Admiralty Danube Committee Interim Report.

N.I.D. 01767/39. Withdrawal of gunboats from China for Danube operations.

N.I.D. 001968/39. Motor boats.

N.I.D. 004/40. Danube Security Measures.

M. 00732/40. Gyro-Control M.B's.

N.I.D. 002046/39, R/S No.6 from N.A. Bucharest. White Ensigns.

N.I.D. 099/40. Sabotage in ships visiting Constanza.

N.I.D. 00179/40. Co-ordination of Danube River Activities. Deals with appointment of a British Naval Officer to proceed to Roumania to co-ordinate.

N.I.D. 002350/39. Gunboats etc., for the Danube.

N.I.D. 01767/39. Attached to the above.

N.I.D. 00406/40. Admiralty Danube Committee memo. of 5/2/40 on French and British N.A. Combined report 17/12/39 Security Measures for the Danube River Fleet.

N.I.D. 00410/40. War Cabinet Inter-Departmental P.D.G. (D) Committee. Chairman's Report 6/2/40.

Re. destruction of oil wells and refineries.

Two plans. Plan I.- would take 14 days, includes cementing operations.

Plan 2.- firing the wells, could be partially carried out in 24 hours.

APRIL 1940

FLEET BASES M.S.M.

See Appendix 1.

14.10.39. A.A. defences.

Only base safe against submarines, on the East Coast, is Rosyth, What to do with the Fleet today? Improvements to be made to A/S defences of Scapa.

22.10.39. C.C.Home Fleet definitely prefers Scapa to any other base. He is prepared to use Rosyth until Scapa is available again, but will not visit Rosyth until dummy ships have been tried for a week, viz. about 23/11.

27.10.39 Admiralty Policy Telegram 0300/27, (Cis C's objections see War Diary of date).

29.10.39. Minutes by D.C.N.S. summarising the situation since sinking of ROYAL OAK.

31.10.39. Conference between First Lord, First Sea Lord, and C-in-C. Home Fleet on board NELSON.

1.11.39. Arrangements decided upon at conference (See Diary 1/11)

3.11.39. Personal minute by First Lord "We must arrive at a definite policy about the Fleet bases."

NORTH SEA STRATEGY.

Policy regarding employment of the Home Fleet see Diary 1/11.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD AT ADMIRALTY
up to 31. 1.40.

(See M.S.M. Appendix 11)

22. 9.39. A/S operations and Training.

23. 9.39. The Actaeon Net.

25. 9.39. Recognition between ships and Bomber Aircraft.

27. 9.39. U-boat Campaign and Destroyer Dispositions.

4.10.39. Missing Policy.

10.10.39. Contraband Control in Mediterranean.

12.10.39. Destroyer Dispositions.

13.10.39. Submarine Operations.

17.10.39. Port Defences against Submarines.

26.10.39. Fleet Base in the Clyde.

10.11.39. Submarine operations.

20.12.39. Meeting with French Naval Staff

Disposition of Cruisers
Gibraltar Convoys
Employment of French Submarines

Minutes of Meetings held at Admiralty up to 31. 1.40.

(see M.S.M. Appendix II)

Anti-Submarine Measures.
Mining, Dover Area.
Minesweeping.
French long-range aircraft at Dakar
Liaison
Delivery to French of 8 A/S Trawlers and 12 Whalecatchers.

27.12.39 First Sea Lord's Meeting.

Final allocation of "D" class cruisers.
Cruisers to be used in the North Sea Force.
Expeditionary Force from West Africa.

(Note: Various other decisions were communicated in signals. See Diary.).

Minutes of Meetings held outside Admiralty up to 31.1.40.

(See M.S.M. Appendix III).

7.9.39. H.M.S. NELSON at Scapa. Defences of Scapa.

28.10.39 H.M.S. NELSON at Loch Ewe
Extra battleship for Home Fleet.
FURIOUS and REPULSE.
Store ships etc.
Northern Barrage.
Mining in North Sea.
Northern Patrol - risk of attack on.
Humber Force. C. in C. wishes the mysterious happenings on Dogger Bank to be cleared up.
Operation in Skagerrak, to be undertaken by destroyers and cruisers only, when forces allow.
S/m. Dispositions. C. in C. is prepared to send one or two s/ms. to the Baltic provided there is reasonable certainty of there being a worth while target for them to attack. He would like occasional minelaying to be done in the German declared area in Kattegat if this is practicable.

3.11.39. Marceau, France.
French willing to release certain ships in Western Mediterranean for use elsewhere.
Hunting Groups in North Atlantic.
Use of ocean going S/ms. for convoy escorts.
SURCOUF for attack on German patrols in Kattegat in the Spring.
Withdrawal of 8" gun cruiser from China.
French reinforcing air reconnaissance in West Indies.
Convoys OG and HG to be worked by British in spite of having French escorts;
Question of extra escorts.

Dover Barrage, French share.
French patrols off Spanish ports.
Defences of Dakar better than Freetown.
New French destroyers to be hastened.
A/S Trawlers, French want a further 8.
Fitting of asdics to French vessels; our offer to fit.
Minesweeping.
Economic Warfare - Mediterranean.
Review of situation and our intentions for the future.

10.11.39 H.M.S. NELSON at Rosyth.

If attack on Holland takes place. C. in C. will remain in North Sea. Proposes to visit Clyde 18/11 or 19/11.
Insufficient destroyers during this period for operation in Skagerrak.
Port A to be used instead of Sullom Voe for 7th and 11th C.S.
Impracticability of operation by forces off Heligoland unless weather is misty.
Northern Patrol below strength.
C. in C. wishes Navy to take over 2 squadrons of Curtis fighters.

7.12.39 H.M.S. WARSPITE At Clyde.

Publication of damage to NELSON.
Sailing of NELSON for repairs.
BARHAM to join Home Fleet.
Northern Patrol to be eased up for a period; question of cover for Narvik convoys.
Suggestion that C. in C. H.F. should use a cruiser as flagship at sea.
German aircraft fly in weather when ours do not.
Fleet Base. No alternative to Clyde at present.
Northern Patrol lines.

Assistance to Turkey.

Guns and ammunition which will be supplied to Turkey provided they are used to implement harbour defence plan agreed at Aleppo Conference. Turks to pay for them.
14 - 6", 6 - 4", 2 - 3", 5 - converted 2 pr.
(C. in C. Med. 0057/28 to N.A. Angora).

My 1238/28. A. On evening 30/4 French propose to detach their squadron to Bijerta for 2 or 3 days' urgent dockyard word. British forces to continue direct passage to Alexandria if situation sufficiently normal.
B. French will continue passage if situation critical.
C. French cruisers DUQUESNE, TOURVILLE will join French battleships.
(1st S.L. 0005/29 to C. in C. Med.)

Arrangements if Italy hostile.

1. Existing responsibilities for security and for offensive operations in either E. or W. basins remain unchanged.
2. Mediterranean to be considered as a whole.
3. Directions to be given by 2 Admiralties in concert.
4. Ships to be sent to E. Mediterranean.
5. Proposed Crete to be immediately occupied.
(1st S.L. 2022/22).

Concentration at Alexandria.

WARSPITE to sail for Mediterranean.
(1st S.L. 2032/26, C. in C. H.F. 2255/26).

MALAYA, ROYAL SOVEREIGN to be prepared to sail for Alexandria 29/4 escorted by 4 destroyers. Relaxation of A/S measures at Gib. ordered in my 1650/19 must be accepted.

PROVENCE, BRETAGNE, LORRAINE with destroyer escort also sail. The two squadrons will be in mutual support.

Destroyers of 13th D.F. to be relieved by similar force from 19th and 20th Divisions.

French concurrence being sought urgently (1st S.L. 0132/28 to C. in C. Med., C. in C. Med.1131/28 to F.O.C.N.A.)

French have concurred. Movements therefore to be carried out.
(A.C.N.S.(A) 1238/28).

April 1940.

Mediterranean Concentration.

My 1156/24, your 1745/24. Political situation has been reviewed today. Concentration of your forces to be made at Alexandria without undue haste but as early as practicable.

Sail MALAYA, ROYAL SOVEREIGN accordingly. Hoped to send WARSPITE shortly.
(1st S.L. 1742/25 to C. in C. Med.)

ORION, NEPTUNE, RESOURCE and 2 destroyers have left for Alexandria.

Danube Operations.

In my view only chance of success is to infiltrate men and stores into Rumania now. Refers to D.N.I.'s letter of 25/3.
(C. in C. Med. 1307/23).

Anglo-French co-operation.

Re. Admty. 1235/17, your 1327/19.

(a) Our intention was British continue to command Fleet in E. Mediterranean, French to assist with certain ships.
(b) French want to assume direction of all forces in both E. and W. Mediterranean. This is unacceptable to us.
(c) We have sent MALAYA and ROYAL SOVEREIGN to Mediterranean, where RAMILLIES will shortly join them.
(d) We intend to concentrate in E. Mediterranean such forces as possible, but so far as can be seen at present they will only be of strength to carry out task in para. 3 of your 1327/19. Preferable to accept this limited object for a while, therefore French will not be asked to reinforce you at this stage.
(e) Every endeavour will be made to send you additional cruisers and destroyers when situation permits. At present we can only send the 2 "D" class destroyers coming from S. Atlantic.
(f) Will endeavour to send WARSPITE as soon as Narvik operations are complete.
(g) ORION and NEPTUNE have been ordered to Gib.
(h) EAGLE could join you latter part of May if you wish.
(i) Should crisis arise in Mediterranean it should be possible to pass destroyers through Mediterranean by hops from one French port to another, by night as far as possible, until Malta, then by a dash to Alexandria.
(k) MALAYA, ROYAL SOVEREIGN, ORION, NEPTUNE, RESOURCE, DEFENDER, DECOY are placed under your orders.
(1st S.L. 2352/21 to C. in C. Med.)

Mediterranean Policy

My 1211/12 and your 1055/14. Operations to establish Allied forces in Norway must take precedence over all other requirements since their outcome may profoundly affect whole course of war, in particular their success may keep Italy out (2) Battleship reinforcement of Mediterranean impossible owing to lack of destroyers. (3) If it should be decided to make demonstration of force in Mediterranean best solution would be to concentrate Allied Fleet in Eastern Mediterranean with cruiser forces at Bizerta, Oran. If French could be persuaded to agree to this we could, when capital ships can be spared from Home Waters join the French forces in Western Mediterranean. Do you concur in above which would obviate necessity of passing large ships into Eastern Mediterranean after war declared? (1st S.L. 1235/17, 2007/18 to C-in-C Med. C-in-C Med. 1217/18).
Reply: Concur if no alternative exists. Doubt if French will agree; also re. effect on Egypt Turkey, Balkans of French protecting our interests in Middle East. 2. Hope concentrations of such Allied Fleet would be confined to demonstration, not an efficient tactical unit. 3. Prefer compact British force of one or two battleships with light force in proportion and limit our object to defence of Alexandria, Canal and perhaps of line of communication to Turkey (C-in-C Med. 1327/19)

Assistance to Turkey

Adty. 1836/8, in view of changed situation I have held up offer of guns to Turkey, but if circumstances permit I would like to make it now, as it will undoubtedly have good effect and help expedite work on Turkish harbour defences. (C-in-C Med. 1533/17).

Allied Military Policy in Balkans

Memo. is with Gen. Gamelin now, his reply is expected shortly. Essential nothing should disturb joint Allied plans for development of facilities in Anatolia, e.g. bases, aerodromes, communications. Re. support to Turkey if Italy hostile or undecided. In present uncertain situation we cannot say what further forces could be made available for your Commands; any plans for assisting Turkey must be based on your present resources. In making your plans bear in mind that War Cabinet have agreed we must take some risks to retain Turkey in Allied camp. Difficult at present to visualise form of Allied assistance in Caucasus other than air. Problem of reduction of Dodecanese to be studied with French and Turks. French policy re. general Allied plans for war against Italy are in Part II of this message. (1st S.L. 1344/1 to C-in-C Med for 3 C's-in-C from the C.O.S's.)

April 1940

War Plans against Italy

If Italy hostile. General war plans. (A.S. 1st S.L. 1353/17, Part II of 1344/17). C-in-C Med.'s remarks on above. Wants precise statement of our object if Italy declares war and to be sure that 3 services of the 2 Allies have similar combined object. (C-in-C Med. 2203/19).

French concentration

In consequence of present uncertainty as to attitude of Italy the French Admiralty are effecting a strong concentration of their Naval forces in Mediterranean and urgently desire very early return of SUFFREN. They now agree she should replace or relieve SYDNEY in U.S.2. Arrangemtns for relief. KENT, SYDNEY, LEANDER considered adequate escort from Cocos Is. for Aden for U.S.3 as both pocket battleships were located in German waters 6/4 and German Naval forces are fully occupied in N. Sea operations. (D.O.D.(F) 1250/1 to Australian N.B.).

April, 1940

Danube operations

Re. arrested lighter. State any replacements urgently required (D.N.I. 1305/11 to C-in-C Med.)

Owing to Iron Gates being practically closed through lack of pilots Germans are moving their base upstream from Ovsova to Bazias and are concentrating on rail shipment from there to river for both oil and grain. Roumanians are supplying necessary locomotives. Their grain elevators are also being moved to Bazias. (N.A. Bucharest 1846/12 to D.N.I.) (Sent 1029/13 to C-in-C Med.)

Rumours in Budapest that possibly 4 German monitors about to pass down Danube. Steps being considered by Danube International Commission to avoid every pretext for German intervention. Re. Roumanian request that we withdraw 30 specified personnel from Danube. (D.N.I. 2029/13 to C-in-C Med.)

All military stores and explosives are under control of Roumanian authorities. Doubt efficacy of arrangements by General Staff to control river unless they can forestall Germans (N.A. Bucharest 0940/14 to D.N.I.)

General Staff state Roumania and Yugoslavia have decided to reject German demand to police river if it is made. Ask Horace not to try to introduce anything surreptitiously which might involve Roumania or British personnel (N.A. Bucharest 1200/14)

Danube

All military stores were in lighter arrested at Giurgiu. By arrangement with N.A. they should be available to N.A. at short notice if emergency arises. No blocking operations possible without Roumanian co-operation, in any case cannot carry out until floods run down end June (Adty. 1822/14 to C-in-C Med.)

Yugoslav Govt. may be faced in near future with demand from Germany to allow them to police river. Unless Roumanians resist this situation of British shipping will be impossible. I have moved all British shipping down river to Braila. There are 47,000 tons of shipping under British flag. As equipment for our ships will probably not be available now unless Roumanians resist German demand I propose to hold all ships and personnel at Braila till situation clears. Understand Hungarians have agreed to policing of their sector by Germans. Situation at Iron Gates at moment is chaotic. (N.A. Bucharest, 1029/11).

April, 1940

Danube (cont.)	Please confirm that arrangements for blocking operations are ready for putting into immediate operation if Govt. decides (D.N.I. to N.A. Bucharest 1810/12).
Assistance to Turkey	Mines being sent in S.S. EGYPTIAN PRINCE. Not to leave Malta without Adty. permission (D.N.I. 1929/13 to C-in-C Med.)
Mediterranean concentration	Every effort to be made to accelerate despatch of s/m's from China and East Indies. (1st S.L. 0959/12 to C-in-C China, C-in-C E.I. etc.)
Danube.	Re. my tel. unnumbered 28/3 B2 reports that German request for right to police Hungarian section of Danube was made contingent upon acts of sabotage being attempted against German shipping in that sector. (A.N.A. Belgrade 2110/7).
Danube British stores and explosives personnel	Lighter containing explosives and stores at Giurgiu after protest by German Minister has been placed under Roumanian control. Arranged that latter shall hand them back to us in emergency. Roumanians assumed full responsibility for safety of our shipping. Gaefencu stated if emergency should arise Roumanians would be with us. N.A. hopes in month's time more personnel and stores can be introduced by arrangement with Gaefencu. Latter N.A. sending 1 officer 11 men to Alexandria, hopes to dribble them back. (D.N.I. 1120/7). Undesirable any officers or men be sent back from Roumania if it can possibly be avoided. (C-in-C Med. 1115/8 to N.A.).
Assistance to Turkey	Arms and equipment which it is approved to offer to Turkey. 14-6" guns, 6-4", 2-3" H.A. 5-2 pdr. and ammunition. Turks to pay for them (Hd. of M. 1836/8 to C-in-C Med.).
British mining	Suggestion to drop British magnetic mines on inland waterways of Germany, including Danube. (N.A. Bucharest 2203/9).
Danube operations	N.A. Bucharest reports ratings equipment and stores are embarked on river. W/T sets are on board and it is hoped patrols installed this week. (Bucharest 1149/1).

Danube	A.2. source, all German barges which had been given permission to proceed by Yugoslav authorities believed to have been stopped again. Hungarian barges which had been freed have not been interfered with. River too high for craft to pass under bridge at Baja. (O'Malley Budapest, 1643/1).
Motor landing craft	My 2011/12/3, sending of all available motor landing craft to Mediterranean to assist engineer. What is situation as regards provisioning motor landing craft for Mediterranean? (C-in-C Med 1331/2)
Shipments	Re. shipment of Admiralty cement in EASTLEA at Haifa, etc. (P.S.T.O. Egypt, 1158/4 2017/4).
Turkish co-operation torpedoes	Adty. 1756/31/3. Following is reply from Turkish General Staff (a) Approved to give particulars of electrical torpedoes to British officer who can come to Angora immediately. (b) Turkish General Staff propose co-operation between Turkey and British authorities to ensure development and construction in Turkey of electric torpedoes and especially electric batteries should be accepted in principle. (c) If (b) above is accepted, plans of German built submarines will be given British officer. (N.A. Angora, 1748/4).

MEDITERRANEAN

March

Command of Danube.

N.A. Bucharest THI 1830/11 reads: It would facilitate if crews for tugs arriving from Mediterranean should come as crews of ships bringing (? with) them Merchant sailors' discharge books, preferably old, with justifiable entries. Ships should proceed to Galatz where men can be transferred with naval consular formalities as crews of arms vessels entirely according to international law and normal Danube procedure. Desirable they arrive in two or more ships. Stores should be consigned to Goeland Transport & Shipping Co. Armament consigned in transit to Budapest care Goeland T. and S. Coy. (D.N.I. 1622/12 to C. in C. Med.)
Your 1830/11. Does British Minister concur with these proposals. In any case may we have his comments with regard to proposals in last sentence. Is he satisfied such action will not embarrass future operations of Goeland Coy? (Asst. Sec. 1st S.L. 2042/12 to N.A. Bucharest).

Co-operation with Turkey

Your 1809/27/2. Vocabulary code of no value. Reasons. If co-operation becomes necessary it will be essential to appoint liaison officers and to use British codes for intercommunication (D.C. N.S. 2122/13 to C. in C. Med.)

Roumanian oilfields

Re. demolition scheme. Turkish Government prepared to connive at transit by air of demolition party and stores over Turkish territory. They fear, however, that unless Turkey were about to enter the war, ferry to Roumania would compromise Turkish neutrality. British Ambassador suggests 2 alternatives. (A) party complete journey from Turkey to Roumania in fast ship to be kept ready at Istanbul (B) If permission from Greece obtainable party assemble Mitylene and fly to Roumania over Turkish territory. Turkish F.O. suggests party assemble in Istanbul unostentatiously in small batches and that stores be camouflaged. In view of above demolition scheme (C) now appears only one practicable, but from discussion with A.A. Bucharest it seems there is considerable risk of party being delayed by enemy action during transit between Istanbul and the oilfields. (H.Q.R.A.F.M.E. 1807/13)

Danube Operations

Asking for 80 men and 20 old seamen's Discharge books to be sent by air (C. in C. Med. 1041/13).
Your 1830/11 reference to armament in final sentence not clear. To what arms does this refer (Asst. Sec. 1st S.L. 2306/13 to N.A. Bucharest).
Your 1237/7. What arms are you preparing to send? (Asst. Sec. 1st S.L. 2307/13 to C. in C. Med.).
Every signal made by you should state at conclusion British Minister has seen and concurred (D.N.I. /13 to N.A. Bucharest).

Germany & Danube.	Repeating British Minister, Budapest, T.H.I., 2010/23 (A.2) that Germany has asked for certain rights including arming and manning of various points on Danube in Hungary to enable her to police river. (D.N.I., 1048/24, to C-in-C., W.A.).
Danube MARDINIAN	Admiralty. 1517/21. Ship has been ordered to omit all calls at Greek ports. Personnel and stores from Malta now on board. Doubtful if ship can arrive at Sulina before 29/3 (C-in-C., Med. 1857/24).
Assistance to Turkey.	C-in-C., Med., 2235/24. see 25/3.

MEDITERRANEAN

March

Ice Conditions Danube. Improving rapidly. At Galatz the river will probably be open to the sea at beginning of next week. Section of River Ling to Vienna and at the Iron Gates still ice-bound, but a general resumption of navigation on the whole river may be expected within the next ten days. (N.A. Bucharest, 0340/14).

Danube Operations Your 1431/8 and my 0029/9 ship should arrive Gib. approx. 18/3. Itinerary. You are authorised to stop her off a Greek island by night for your requirements. (Sec. to 1st S.L. 2349/14 to C. in C. Med.)
Your 2307/13. 5 3-pdr. guns and mountings and 480 rounds H.E., 20 rifles, 500 rounds ammunition. 90 pistols, 4,500 ? ammunition, 10 Lewis guns, 48 ? ammunition; 400 small demolition charges, 60 hand grenades, 5,000 sandbags (C. in C. Med. 1251/14).
Your 1041/13. Dis A. not used abroad. 200 Dis. 1 being sent (D.N.I. 1350/14 to C. in C. Med.).
Reply to Adty. 2306/13 (a) 3-pdr. gunds and ammunition. (b) rifles, pistols etc. (c) small demolition charges. (d) sandbags. (b) and (c) not necessary. (N.A. Bucharest 1845/14)

Adty. 2042/12. Minister concurs but suggest 12 or 3-pdr. guns if sent be placed in case of Roumanian authorities until emergency arises (N.A. Bucharest 1135/14).

Danube floods Hungarian Radio reports considerable damage in Danube basin by floods caused by melting snow (Reuter)

British Merchant Shipping in Black Sea. Your 1615/7. If necessary Adty. will take action. CLAM operations should be gradually reduced. Similar instructions being sent to C. in C. Middle East (D.N.I. 2004/15 to C. in C. Med.)

Danube Operations Your 1845/14. Re shipment of equipment (C. in C. Med. 2031/16 to N.A. Bucharest).

Following is correct version of my 2031/16. Your 1845/14 received somewhat corrupt. Intend to ship equipment detailed in same ship that brings you equipment detailed in P.O.G. (D.7) due Sulina 29/3. State (a) which of items in my 1251/14, are not required by you.(b) Your 1135/14. How 3 pdr. guns and mountings should be consigned if intended to be placed in care of Roumanian authorities. These guns are packed in cases not exceeding 6 X 2 X 2 ft. Weight approx. 6 cwts. and could reasonably be stored on board tugs or motor tankers (c) How cases of provisions should be consigned and whether in same ship. (d) Confirm that proposed marking of cases would be satisfactory. (C. in C. Med. C415/17 to N.A. Bucharest).

Danube Navigation.	Iron Gates Canal between Turnu Severin and Orsova is ice free. Adminstration of Gates have placed buoy to permit Germans to move barges containing cereals. Consider action definitely unfriendly to us. Suggested British and French representatives, Danube Commission, be here permanently to counteract German pressure. (N.A. Belgrade 1900/4).
Gunboats for Mediterranean.	Re Admiralty 1653/28/12/39 and C-in-C., China, 0929/13/1. Desirable that two gunboats should reach Mediterranean by end of March, as precautionary measure against enemy activity in Balkans in Spring (C-in-C., Med. 1441/3) Result. See China.

March, 1940.

Defence of Turkish Harbours.	Preparations for defence of one harbour now being made. Boom vessels at Aden will probably be needed. Smyrna could be netted at short notice. Reasons for delay in sending nets. (Hd. of M. 0147/3). Suggesting reallocation of material, closure of Borporus and Dardanelles being more important than under water defences of Turkish harbours. Nets for Izmir should be sent now or may be too late. (C-in-C., Med., 1129/3).
Assistance to Turkey.	against Russia. Your 2101/29. In the event of our giving assistance intention is to concentrate a fleet for offensive operations in Black Sea. Type of force 2 battleships, 3 - 8 inch cruisers, 3 - 6 inch cruisers (modern), 18 destroyers, 13 s/ms, auxiliaries in proportion. Most or all would be British, but French assistance might be added. Re. discussion with Naval Staff, be guarded as to disclosing size of fleet and when it might mature, since much depends on situation elsewhere at the time. (Sec. 1st S.L. 1930/3 to C-in-C., Med.).

March

Concentration of British Ships.

(D.O.D.(F) 2146/27 to C. in C.E.I.). My 2030/27. RESOURCE escorted by 2 destroyers to sail for Alexandria as soon as practicable. MAIDSTONE should return to Freetown on completion of short refit (D.O.D.(F) 2147/27 to C. in C.S.A.) My 2030/27. The four "P" class submarines now at Hong Kong to sail. MEDWAY and GRAMPUS for Alexandria as soon as possible. RORQUAL should follow on completion of refit (D.O.D.(F) 2148/27 to C. in C. China) (MEDWAY and GRAMPUS arrived Hong Kong 27/3 (S.O.(I) Singapore 1057/27). MEDWAY, see China' 28/3. A/S Groups, see 28/3 Movements.

My 2011/25 (loan of dredgers to Egyptian Govt.). It is urged that dredgers be despatched forthwith. (C. in C. Med. 2051/27 to Adty.)

Danube

A.1. Yugoslav authorities have released 3 Hungarian and 8 German barges. Consider remaining craft will be released later. Floods making navigation difficult but Danube is now open for traffic at ships' masters' own risk. (O'Malley, Budapest, 2157/30).

Gunboats for Danube.

Re. H.M. Minister, Bucharest's suggestion that one or two of the gunboats now on way to Malta be lent to Turkish Government, in hope they would send them to Roumania at Karmanian invitation if trouble threatened on Danube. Scheme very valuable if British control over vessels could be maintained which is improbable (C. in C. Med. 1828/30). Further signal see 31/3.

Adty. 1828/30. Question of introduction of these gunboats to Danube has exercised my mind for 3 months and so far problem appears insoluble. In present mood Turks would insist on absolute transfer and will not risk being drawn into war unless threatened. Should Turkey be a belligerent Dardanelles would be open to us and gunboats could equally well be sent with British crews. (C. in C. Med. 1831/31).

MEDITERRANEAN

March

Command of Danube

N.A. states Danube liable to be open at any time from middle March. Evacuation now out of question owing to moral effect and necessity for presence of British vessels in Danube to impede German traffic. There are thousands of Germans, including German naval ratings, organised in Roumania, who will resort to any means to defeat our ends. German tugs and tankers are already armed. British ships must be manned by British crews. Personnel required for 10 available vessels, 10 officers, 22 P.Os., 48 A.Bs., 10 E.R. ratings. If we are once known to be ready Germans will know that at their first move we are in position to do irreparable harm, perhaps wreck traffic on river entirely. Action is essential before 20/3. Given foregoing there is every chance we may retain effective command of river, without it we shall certainly be eliminated. French retaining 50 officers and men on river and will supply them surreptitiously with arms (Minister Bucharest 1315/6).

Reply: Paras. F.G. I am proceeding forthwith to raise this party from ships on station. Propose to arrange to pass them into Roumania in driblets in ships proceeding to Danube ports and by other means so as to be at disposal of N.A. by 20/3. Reliefs must be sent from England as soon as possible. (C. in C. Med. 2123/6). For N.A. Party is being organized and will be sent if Adty. approves. Forward your views on introducing (a) personnel (b) arms (c) provisions into Roumania. Propose to use British vessels sailing to Constanza, etc. If armed, stores must be disembarked at Sulina, to whom to be addressed. Will amount to some tons but can be sent in packages which can be manhandled. (C. in C. Med. 1237/7). Your 2123/6 fully concur. Re. P.O.G.(D) paras 8 and 19, equipment should arrive Sulina 29/3. N.A. being informed fully (1st S.L. 1852/7).

Command of Danube.

C. in C. Med. 1257/7. Re. getting personnel into Roumania (N.A. Bucharest 2100/9)

Motor landing craft.

G.O.C. in C. Middle East asks and I concur strongly that all available motor landing craft be sent to Med. as soon as possible as this would assist engineer greatly and prove invaluable until ports are fully developed (C. in C. Med. 2011/12).

Transports

Re. keeping scuttles open when E. of Malta (C. in C. Med. 1757/12)

Turkish ship held up by Russians

and escorted to Sevastobal. Dutch ship sighted 4 Russian submarines and 2 T.Bs. of modern construction between Istanbul, Varna and Constantsa. No date given. (S.O.(I) Alexandria 1321/12).

MEDITERRANEAN

March

Mediterranean Concentration information being disseminated (B.N.L.O. Paris, 1916/26).

Danube. German seaplane base. B.3. No German fast armed motor launches in Vienna area. B.5. Seaplane base to be established at Hainburg (on Danube, 10 miles W. of Bratislava). B.1. German military seaplane landed Hainburg 2 or 3 days ago and returned towards Germany after stay of 4 hours (Mr. O'Mally, Budapest, 2146/26).

Co-operation with Turkey. F.O.187 (asking Ambassador to state probable Turkish reactions to an Allied offensive against Soviet with special reference to an attack on Baku and chances of obtaining active Turkish co-operation). I believe Turkish Government has reached a stage where it accepts and is preparing for possibility of being ultimately engaged in war with U.S.S.R. as result of Soviet attack on it, but not yet willing to discuss with Allies possibility of participating in Allied offensive against U.S.S.R. Requires clear understanding with Allies re. eventuality of war with Italy before considering joint plans for war with U.S.S.R. I think Turkey could not at present join in or give facilities for attack on Baku; does not yet desire and is not yet prepared for war with U.S.S.R. Will probably participate later (late summer) when she is ready.

Concentration of ships. There is no evidence that Italy intends to enter war on side of Germany, but her attitude is uncertain. As precaution, it is considered necessary to be able to concentrate a Fleet in Eastern Mediterranean at short notice. Movements of certain slow ships to Mediterranean is in accordance with this policy (1st S.L. 0211/29 to C. in Cs.)
HOOD see 'Movements' (HOME COMMANDS).

Concentration of British ships. It may become necessary to concentrate at short notice a considerable force in Eastern Mediterranean. As preliminary action, certain depot and repair ships are being ordered to sail for Alexandria now, also some submarines from China and East Indies Station. (D.O.D.(H) 2030/27 to all C's. in C, 1100/27).
WOOLWICH to proceed. Boiler cleaning and repair parties for about 2½ flotillas should remain in WOOLWICH (D.O.D.(H) 2145/27). Cancelled (D.O.D.(H) 1948/28). HOOD to sail for Malta p.m. 29, screened by ISIS, IMOGEN, KELVIN, HAVOCK. Route. Fuelling at Gib. (C. in C.H.F. 1407/27 to N.O.I.C. Greenock, C. in C.W.A. 2031/27) (For retubing condensers). TURBO (oiler). Adty. 1344 (? 1347/26) on arrival to sail for Alexandria (C. in C. Med. 1107/27 to S.B.N.O. Suez Canal area). C. in C. E.I. to sail his 4 submarines for Alexandria as soon as practicable. OTUS to dock as previously arranged. Arrange for LUCIA to proceed to Masirah or Aden at short notice

(D.O.D.(F) .....

Italy's attitude. assistance by Italy, was refused. (F.O. to Sir M. Lampon (Cairo) No. 151 25/3).

Attack on Baku. Possibility of our attacking Baku, thus involving ourselves in war with Soviet Union, is now under consideration (F.O. to Sir H. Knatchbull Hugesson (Angora) No. 187 D.I.P.P. 25/3)

Assistance to Turkey Summary of Aleppo Conference:- 1. Turkey nervous about Allies implementing obligations under Treaty, particularly if Italy belligerent, and anxious to know extent of assistance to be expected in this event. 2. Constant reference to shortage of war material. Any speeding up of delivery would have excellent effect. 3. Command. Turks want forces of all nationalities, naval, army, air under Marshal. 4. Harbour defences. At present rate of progress Turks will take some months to get these efficient. Strongly urge assistance with material deficiencies. 5. Turks have no real defence plans. Need for A.A. guns and equipment. 6. Turks nervous of Black Sea Fleet, particularly as they contemplate on mobilization moving troops by sea from Eastern Turkey to Thrace. 10. Situation Italy belligerent will be discussed later (C. in C. Med. 2235/24).

Danube Operations. MARDINIAN cannot arrive at Sulina before 29/3 and may not arrive until a.m./30 (C. in C. Med. 0937/25 to N.A. Bucharest). 8 officers and 60 men on board, and following stores (C. in C. Med. 0931/25).

Mediterranean Concentration Your 1055/26. (a) I consider concentration at Gibraltar might well fail to impress on Italy that we are prepared to fight her in Mediterranean if she becomes belligerent. (b) Greater deterrent effect would be exercised by British concentration at Alexandria with light force at Malta and French concentration at Gibraltar and/or Oran with light force at Bizerta. Effect also on Turkey and other Balkan States and Egypt would be excellent. Most important also not to tempt Italy by uncovering Canal. (c) Passage of British Fleet from Gib. through narrow waters between Sicily and Africa might be difficult and result in losses. (d) If concentration is made adequate air forces essential for reconnaissance with fleet, and fighter squadrons for defence of Malta. Bombers in Malta or Tunisia would have salutary effect on Italy. (C. in C. Med. 1829/26)
Your 1454/25. Admiral Darlan considers inadvisable to send force de Raid to Dapar owing to uncertainty of Italy's attitude and lack of precise information re LUTZOW, PROVENCE, 2 8-inch cruisers, submarines and eventually aircraft carrier BEARN considered sufficient. Intend sending shortly force de raid to Oran-Gibraltar area where they will be ready to move East or West and can later, if necessary, be sent to Dapar. This

information /

MEDITERRANEAN

March.

Sabotage Report — Galatz reports, re. Adty. 1933/1/1, Admiral Janakoulis, formerly connected with Jewish immegrant scandals, is to leave Greece next few days for Danube, to organise sabotage on British ships (B.3) (S.O.(I) Malta 1403/7).

Danube Operations — My 2123/6. 17 men sent 18/3. Hope to embark further party in ship mentioned in Adty. 2349/14 which is being intercepted. Difficulty locally in finding ships bound for Sulina or Galatz. Please inform of any leaving U.K. bound for these ports or which could be diverted (C. in C. Med. in DELHI 1547/19). Reply giving names (Adm. Bellairs, Adty. 1901/20).

Danube Navigation — First three river steamers seen Danube this year arrived today. Two were tankers, one German, other Dutch, came here from Vienna. Third steamer Hungarian. Ready receive goods for shipment Germany. Two tankers it is understood will proceed Roumania oil for Germany. (A.S.D. Press Message, Budapest, 1457/19).

Co-operation with Turkey. — Turkey averse from giving visible signs of preparations to defend harbours. They decline to lay Bosporus boom, wish it unloaded at Ismid but I consider it should be stored at Alexandria. They state all necessary measures and preparations will be put in hand at once so that harbour defence could be made effective at short notice (C. in C. Med. in DELHI 1135/20)

Danube — Expect navigation will be general length of Danube by 25/3 or sooner. Can you expedite arrival of SS. MARDINIAN at Suling? Possibility of ? guard by German M.T.Bs. is real. I have information they are ready to move at short notice (N.A. Bucharest 1224/20). Adty. 1901/20 see 19/3. Reply. MARDINIAN left Gib. 19/3. You are authorised to take action you consider necessary (D.C.N.S. 1517/21 to C. in C. Med.)

Anglo-Turkish Defence Plan. — For Bosporus, Ismid and Dardanelles. Requirements. Requesting permission to offer Turks certain gear available at Malta as gift to show we mean business (C. in C. Med. 1715/23).
Work of preparing Anglo-Turkish Books (signalling) will be started now (Hd. of M. 0021/23).

Italy's attitude — We do not, for the moment, see cause for special alarm. Majority of Italian people, particularly in North and certainly Catholic opinion as a whole, continues to be opposed to war on Germany's side. Italy's economic and military condition still leaves much to be desired. Seems probable any attempt by Hitler to persuade Mussolini to afford early military

assistance /

War Diary

29. 2. 1940
Thursday.

F O R E I G N S T A T I O N S

DORSETSHIRE — Completes refit about 15/4 (C. in C.S.A. 1622/29)

LOCH DEE — In collision. (Capt. D'yd. Halifax 1724/29)

THISTLEFORD, KING FREDERICK, BRISTOL CITY — Reported overdue arrived Halifax (N.S.), Hampton Roads (Va.), Philadelphia.

Mediterranean

Roumanian Oil

P.O.G.16 (also W.P.(40)26) WAR CABINET. Lord Hankey's Committee on Preventing Oil from reaching Germany - Second Report 19.1.1940.

M.E.W. 1351/26 dated 14.9.39. and comments (N.A., R.S. No. 6 Belgrade 4/12/39).

Sources of Germany's Oil Supplies - See Committee's First Report.

War Cabinet's Policy for preventing Roumanian Oil Supplies from reaching Germany:-

(a) To buy as much Roumanian oil as possible
(b) To aim at preventing Germany from obtaining from Roumania more than 1 million tons a year, that is 250,000 tons less than last year.
(c) To purchase or charter means of oil transport such as barges, tugs and railway oil tanks.

German Imports from Roumania

In 1938 imports from Roumania were given in the German official Trade returns as:-

Germany	448,000	tons
Austria	169,000	"
Czechoslovakia	305,000	"
	922,000	"

(These figures believed to exclude purchases on Government account).

The Roumanian trade returns show exports to:-

Germany	692,700	tons
Czechoslovakia	294,900	"
Austria	11,100	"
	998,700	"

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (Contd.)

Roumanian Agreement with Germany

Roumanian Government has undertaken to supply Germany with 1,250,000 tons of oil in 1940 against German armaments. (F.O. to Sir R. Hoare (Bucharest No. 112 31/1/40). But F.O. Intn. 26.2.40. says total deliveries not to exceed 130,000 tons a month.

Danube Tanker vessels - results of British policy in buying up or Chartering

has not been unsatisfactory up to the end of 1939. According to the Roumanian Minister in London, Germany, during the first 2 months of the war, was unable to obtain the amount of oil which Roumania had agreed upon, owing to transport difficulties. (D.N.I. 2159/1/11/39). The unusually severe winter had its effect on subsequent supplies during the winter.

By the end of 1939 the position was as follows:-

	Barges	Tank Barges	Tugs
Chartered or purchased	96	25	27
Under negotiation ...	9	2	3
TOTAL	105	27	30
Total of vessels on the Lower Danube ...	669	112	148

Shipments of Russian oil from Baku to Constanza, and thence by rail to Germany.

Practically certain none during first three months of war.

The use of such a route was mooted early in December but abandoned owing to the lack of capacity in the pipe lines from the port to the loading stations and probably also to the difficulty in obtaining temporary storage capacity in Roumania.

There has been talk of transferring Rhine barges to Germany, but nothing had been done up to 19.2.40.

War Diary 29. 2. 1940.
Thursday

F O R E I G N S T A T I O N S

Mediterranean (Contd.)

German requirements

In the first year of war, are estimated at 4.5 million tons.

Routes

In 1938 about half the German supplies followed the Danube and rail route. It is estimated that in the most favourable circumstances of forced neutrality almost 1½ million tons could be transported by this route in the first year of war. Under neutral conditions the quantity might exceed 1 million tons.

Other possible routes are:-

By rail combined with road transport.
By road transport all the way.

(Road transport is negligible in peace time and is not likely appreciably to affect the issue in the first year of war).

Danube tanker vessels - capacity

The total carrying capacity of the Danube tankers is about 1½ million tons a year.

In September 1939 Germany controlled about 40% of the normal number of Danube tanker vessels. On the outbreak of war it was estimated that the combined Axis Powers would be likely between them to secure effective control of some two thirds of the total number of tankers. with a carrying capacity of over one million tons a year.

In 1938 Roumania exported to Italy 556,600 tons of oil. It is assumed that her annual requirements in 1939 onwards will be 700,000 tons a year.

Roumanian production and consumption.

Production estimated at 6,000,000 tons for 1940.
Home consumption " " 1,700,000 " " "

Exports to other countries than Germany and Italy.

To Yugo-Slavia, Bulgaria and Hungary estimated 400-410,000 tons a year.
To France, contract for 12 months ending 31.3.40., 414,000 tons.
To Great Britain estimated at 340,000 tons a year, which figure could very easily be increased.

The bunkering of boats at Constanza accounts for at least 180,000 tons a year. Other countries take about 500,000 tons a year.

War Diary 29. 2. 40.
Thursday

F O R E I G N S T A T I O N S

Mediterranean (Contd.)

Assistance to Turkey (Contd.) In all circumstances in which three powers belligerents together Art. 20 of Montreux Convention gives Turkey full liberty to open Straits and Turkish Government would take all necessary steps to avoid delay. German attack on Roumania would not necessarily bring treaty into play. In such circumstances Turkish Govt. would equally do all they could in interest of individual security of Turkey and collective security of Allies. (Sir H.K.Hugesson (Angora), No. 172 29/2 to F.O.).

FOUADIEH C. in C. Med. 1321/19. At present delay can be accepted. What is maximum notice you require to make S.S. FOUADIEH ready? (D.C.N.S. 1354/29 to C. in C. Med.)

Economic Warfare Masters of Dutch ships need not in future be asked to give undertakings as to route or call at home Contraband Control Base (D.E.W.D. 1116/29 to C.C.S.O. Gib.)

S.S. VAV, Unrest. Admty. 1351/28. 13 members of crew of Norwegian tanker VAV who refused to sail to U.K. have been discharged. New crew signed on and ship sailed 1600 A. today for Gibraltar for inclusion in next convoy. (C. in C. Med., 1917/29)

Danube Tugs. Telegram 58, ref. P.O.G.D. (seven). Unless we receive personnel mentioned in para. 15 before March 15 at latest we risk loss of our tugs. (N.A. Bucharest, 1800/29).

East Indies

GLOUCESTER Defect: arives Colombo 5/3. Not to be withdrawn until GLORIOUS rejoins C. in C.E.I. which will at earliest be 28/3. GLOUCESTER could then arrive Freetown about 17/4 (C. in C.E.I. 0705Z/29 to C. in C.S.A.).

Shipping Intelligence Your 1027/26. Information should be promulgated by Vescar telegrams which are transmitted to Lloyds by Ministry of Shipping. (Hd. of M. 1447/29 to C. in C.S.A.).

MEDITERRANEAN

February

FOUADIEH — Your 1354/29. Maximum notice required is 60 hours to make British SS. FOUADIEN ready to sail. This includes 24 hours given in my 1329/19/2. (C. in C. Med. 1451/1 to Adty.)

Roumanian Oil — Source B2. 100 barges and a number of tugs have been brought overland to Linz and are now being assembled. (Budapest 1533/1).

Staff Talks. — My 1257/26. G.O.C. Middle East informs me that Marshal Calmak wishes to defer staff talks until he has studied Agenda and joint proposals for assistance in Thrace. Probable talks will not take place for at least 14 days. My visit to Alexandria will therefore be postponed for a few days. See G.H.Q. M.E. telegram 7458, 1/3, to Troopers, London. (C. in C. Med. 1155/2).

February

Scheme AX or Scheme C.	Captain O.S. St. ANGELO 1321/19, Admiralty 2154/31/12, 1825/20/1 and Air Ministry X345/16/2. A small cruiser or destroyer could be made available. Suggest Turks be asked whether they would (a) allow a warship to bring party through Dardanelles to Sea of Marmara (Scheme AX). (b) allow a warship through Dardanelles and Bosporus (Scheme C.). (Captain O.S. ST. ANGELO, 1749/19).
Istanbul Intelligence	Admty. 1210/15. Strongly in favour of establishing an intelligence sub-centre at Istanbul, subject to provisos (C. in C., Med. 2119/17).
Istanbul Intelligence Centre.	Asking views on formation for Black Sea, Marmara and Dardanelles area. (D.N.I. to C. in C. Med. 1810/15).
Assistance to Turkey.	Re. A/S air protection of convoys and shipping subsequently necessary for maintenance of forces in Turkey. No justifiable to move valuable troop-ships and storeships through Aegean Sea without air reconnaissance. (A.O.C. in C. Middle East 0834/11).
Assistance to Turkey.	Necessary to provide A/S air protection for convoys and for shipping maintaining our forces in Turkey 203 Sqn. will remain at your disposal in Mediterranean for as long as our forces are operating in Turkey. Inform A.O.C. Aden and C. in C. E.I. (Air Min. 1345/29 to H.Q.R.A.F.M.E.). In all circumstances in which three powers belligerents together, Art. 20 of Montreux Convention gives Turkey full liberty to open Straits and Turkish Government would take all necessary steps to avoid delay. German attack on Roumania would not necessarily bring treaty into play. In such circumstances Turkish Government would equally do all they could in interest of individual security of Turkey and collective security of Allies. (Sir H. K. Hugesson (Angora), No. 172 29/2 to F.O.)
FOUADIEH	C. in C. Med. 1321/19. At present delay can be accepted. What is maximum notice you require to make S.S. FOUADIEH ready? (D.C.N.S. 1354/29 to C. in C. Med.)
Danube Tugs	Telegram 58, ref. P.O.G.D. (seven). Unless we receive personnel mentioned in para. 15 before March 15 at latest we risk loss of our tugs. (N.A. Bucharest, 1800/29).
Middle East Force.	Desirable to give warning of possible move of a Force ultimately 2 divisions to Middle East in early April. Concentration area in first place will be Egypt, so ports of intake will be Port Said and Alexandria. Movement may be concurrent with possible French moves for which probably

Haifa/

Middle East Force (Contd.)	Haifa will be used as additional disembarkation port. British will go overland to Marsailles if possible, but French movements referred to may preclude any in excess of one Brigade using this route. Remainder will be moved by all sea route, following liners being assembled U.K., FRANCONIA, EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA, MONARCH OF BERMUDA, REINA DEL PACIFICO, CHROBBY, BATORY, ORION. DUCHESS OF ATHOLL, SOBIESKI, SOBIESKI, ORFORD AND OTRANTO may also be returned to U.K. in near future. Propose ammunition and stores to be discharged Port Said, M.T. and personnel divided between Port Said and Alexandria. No indications yet as to possibility of subsequent movement from Egypt but S.T.Os. to report extent to which locally available shipping could move force this size at short notice within Mediterranean area. Normal movements referred to in my 1223/14 would probably be cancelled (D. of S.T. 1045/28)
Danube	Navigation has started on Sava. Ice is on move in Danube and local movement of shipping is taking place. General navigation is expected to begin in 10 to 14 days unless frost returns (A.N.A. Belgrade 2215/28)
Assistance to Turkey.	Situation as regards Turkish conversations. Naval reconnaissance party sent at request of Turkish C.G.S. (see my 1651/5) returned to Ankara with provisional plans for Bosporus. Turks have not disclosed full information of available material and defence dispositions, but some progress has been made and reconnaissance of Izmir and Dardanelles continues. Army and R.A.F. reconnaissance still proceeding. All 3 chiefs of staff and French C. of S. due Ankara 4/3 when hoped conversations will commence; likely hitch is financial question. I intend to discuss report of Chiefs of Staff at Alexandria probably 10/3, flag in DELHI. Desire reply by 4/3 to following questions: Training of Turks in asdics: production of various instructions (C. in C. Med. 1257/28).
Danube	Guiding principle for action when navigation is resumed should be to impede as much as possible the transport of oil to Germany while not provoking her to retaliate by physical action on the river. Minister Bucharest being asked his views on Allied approach to Roumanian Government with a view to their co-operation in plans for defence or destruction of river craft on Danube in event of German attack on river even if it should occur without German military advances into Roumania. (Admiralty 1830/22 to C. in C. Mediterranean)

Turkish Harbour Defences. Will take some time to get them into satisfactory state. Advisers will have to be in Turkey two months. Now that detailed planning is about to commence I cannot spare officers of my staff for so long, but will send one or two temporarily to make a start. Request Adty send suitable officers. (C. in C. Med 1651/5). Chief of Turkish General Staff has just sent request for preparations by my staff of general defence plan for Smyrna, Dardanelles and Bosphorus. (C. in C. Med. 1935/5)

Danube Navigation. Iron Gates Canal between Turnu Severin and Orsova is ice free. Administration of Gates have placed buoy to permit Germans to move barges containing cereals. Consider action definitely unfriendly to us. Suggested British and French representative Danube Commission, be here permanently to counteract German pressure. (N.A. Belgrade 1900/4).

Gunboats for Mediterranean Re. Admiralty 1653/28/12/39 and C. in C. China 0929/13/1. Desirable that two gunboats should reach Mediterranean by end of March, as precautionary measure against enemy activity in Balkans in Spring (C. in C Med. 1441/3). Result See China.

Meteorological Information. Sea of Marmara, Black Sea, Aegean etc. Re. C. in C. Med. 1033/27, Adty. 1600/3). Concur last para. Adty. 1600/3. Officers should arrive Malta end Feb. (C. in C. Med. 1137/4)

Defence of Turkish Harbours Preparations for defence of one harbour now being made. Boom vessels at Aden will probably be needed. Smyrna could be netted at short notice. Reasons for delay in sending nets. (Hd. of M. 0147/3). Suggesting re-allocation of material, closure of Bosporus and Dardanelles being more important than under water defences of Turkish harbours. Nets for Izmir should be sent now or may be too late. (C. in C. Med. 1129/3).

Assistance to Turkey. against Russia. Your 2101/29. In the event of our giving assistance intention is to concentrate a fleet for offensive operations in Black Sea. Type of force 2 battleships, 3 - 8 inch cruisers, 3 - 6 inch cruisers (modern), 18 destroyers, 12 submarines, auxiliaries in proportion. Most or all would be British, but French assistance might be added. Re. discussion with Naval Staff, be guarded as to disclosing size of fleet and when it might mature, since much depends on situation elsewhere at time. (Sec. 1st S.L. 1930/3 to C. in C. Med.)

Balkan I.C. Balkan Intelligence Centre commenced operating 26/12. (Head of M. 1909/2)

MEDITERRANEAN

February

Turkish Defences — LAOMEDON to load boom equipment for Turkey as soon as possible (Hd. of M. 1053/9). Your 1129/3. Concur that material sent out should first be used to close Bosporus and Dardanelles. Arrangements. These involve change of policy regarding provision of boom defences for Turks. Latter should be informed that as shore depot facilities not available in Turkey for some time we are prepared to lay Bosporus boom and to maintain it until the boom working vessels ordered by Turkey are delivered. We rely on full Turkish co-operation in labour and auxiliary crafts. Report if Turks agree (Hd. of M. 1047/9).

Assistance to Turkey. — Adty. 1930/3, 1725/9/1. Would prefer 4 SOUTHAMPTON class cruisers and 2 smaller modern 6-inch cruisers as 8-inch cruisers seem wasted in restricted waters of Black Sea and present good targets to s/m and air attack in area where both are likely to be heavy. I also consider one more division of destroyers desirable. Important that adequate shore based reconnaissance and bombing forces should be available to support naval operations (C. in C. Med. 1105/8).

Codes for Turkish Fleet. — Your 1023/7. Request number of copies required to equip Turkish Fleet and Authorities (D.N.I. 1857/8 to N.A. Angora). Reply 200 (N.A. Angora 1237/11).

Co-operation with Turkey. — Policy regarding Black Sea is in Adty. 1930/3. This assumes neutral Italy. Policy you propose if Italy hostile is approved and you should inform Turks accordingly if they raise the matter.

Policy re. disclosure of asdics is in Adty. 0112/4. Questions of augmenting boom defences of Bosporus and Dardanelles is under consideration. Carriers are not included in force given in Adty. 1930/3 as it was hoped sufficient shore-based aircraft might be available for offensive operations. You will be deficient in air reconnaissance, but use of one of our few aircraft carriers in narrow waters like Black Sea is open to serious objection. Re. signal books to be produced in Turkish
Re. D.E.M.S. sufficient 4" L.A. guns can be provided to arm majority of Turkish vessels of 2,000 tons and over which are less than 30 years old. Communicate this offer to Turks. A.A. protection cannot be provided at present. (Hd. of M. 1155/8 to C. in C. Med.)

Turkish Defence — Re. state of production of Anglo-Turkish code, call signs, key memos, convoy signals and inter-communication instructions (C. in C. Med. 1253/7).

MEDITERRANEAN

January

Danube Navigation — Unless there is another storm to pack the ice, there are indications that the Danube may be open to traffic again within two weeks. Should another occur within that period, experts say river will be closed for a long time. (N.A., Bucharest 1920/8)

Combined War H.Q. Term to be treated as secret (V.A. Malta 1143/8).

Planning with Turks. — C. in C. Med. (1901/8)

Istanbul Intelligence centre — D.N.I. 02327/39 of Jan. 7 to S.O.(I) Malta (proposal to establish intelligence centre at Istanbul). Hoped question under reconsideration in view of my 2301/8/1. (C. in C. Med. 1241/31)

Middle East Plans. — War Office letter 0143/31 62 (M.D.S.) of 13th January, and documents in Admiralty letter M. 016267/38 of 15th January. While in agreement G.O.C. in C. Middle East should be co-ordinating authority. Official confirmation from Admiralty would appear desirable (C. in C. Med. 1853/28).

Material for Turkey. — Enquiry how much has been or is being sent. (Re. Med. letter 0995/0450/783/12 of 27 Dec.) (C. in C. Med. 0931/36).

Air bases — In Greece and Turkey. (D.N.I. 1501/25 to C. in C. Med. re A.L.M., N.I.D. 002016/39 of 14 December Scheme B.)

Turkey - defences Bosporus, Dardanelles. — Urgent necessity of rendering Bosporus and Dardanelles proof against submarines. Officers should leave for Turkey now. Turks to be urged to get defences in place. Turks to be given information about asdics. Defences of Ismir need taking in hand (C. in C. Med. 1907/24).

ADMIRALTY WAR DIARIES

1 October 1940 - 31 October 1940

T. S. D. (Historical §)

WAR DIARY

31

1. August 1940.
2. Ops. Vol. 6/6/1940 - 2/8/1940

3. Mediterranean Vol.
map (1 page) June, July 1940.

4. Supplementary Diary
1/4 to 11/7. 14/4 and
15/7/1940.

War Diary

1.8.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Commissioning of French Ships

C. in C., Portsmouth's 1507/31. Meeting will be held by V.C.N.S. at 1130/2. Request your representatives attend. (A.C.N.S. H. 1317/1 to C. in C.'s).

My 2236/31/7. Add the CHEVRLUIL and CAPRICILUSE to Para. B. These ships are serviceable and are manned by 3/4 British crews plus a small number of French R.N. Ratings. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1826/1 to Adty.).

Home Fleet Destroyer Flotillas

From 0800/2 the composition of Home Fleet Flotillas will be as follows:

3rd D.F. INGLEFIELD, ISIS, DUNCAN, ECHO, ELECTRA, ECLIPSE. On return to U.K. ESCAPADE.

4th D.F. COSSACK, ZULU, SIKH MAORI, FAME FORTUNE. On return to U.K. FOXHOUND. Temproarily attached until required to relieve ESCAPADE and FOXHOUND, FURY, FIREDRAKE.

6th D.F. No change.

12th D.F. KEPPEL, DOUGLAS, ARROW, ACHATES, ACTIVE, ANTHONY, AMAZON temporarily attached VOTIGERN, WATCHMAN.

(R.A.D. H.F., 2235/1 to H.F. Destroyers).

Defence of U.K.

Night and Fleet Artillery Zones

New trial arrangements as to Approach, Recognition, and Attack on enemy a/c in harbour. (Adty. 0008/1 to C. in C.'s.) (D. of L.D. 0010/1 to Air Min. and W.O.).

Re-arrangement of Destroyer Patrols in Dover Area

Your 1929/31. Concur with V.A. Dover's 1137/31 (C. in C., W.A. 0100/1 to Adty.)
Your 1929/31. Concur with V.A. Dover's 1137/31. (C. in C., Portsmouth 0945/1).
Dover's 1137/31. Concur. (C. in C. Nore, 1115/1).

War Diary

1.8.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

Northern Patrol

During August, and until A.B.V.S. come into service, the Northern Patrol will be meagre. Request minimum of 10 trawlers or corvettes be transferred to Kirkwall as soon as possible. (F.O.C.N.P. 1244/1 to Adty.)

C. in C., Home Fleet 1905/1 and F.O.C.N.P. 1244/1. It is fully realised that the Northern Patrol will be considerably reduced in strength during the period mentioned. There are, however, at present no additional vessels available. The French ships are very disappointing assets. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1931/2 to F.O.C.N.P.).

Dover Balloon Barrage.

In addition 16 land sites 8 waterborne balloons required which will be flown from buoys, buoy moorings being arranged. Anticipate ready to fly Monday 5/8. Pending preparation buoys five craft being loaned temporarily from Thames barrage returning when buoys ready. One vessel only required for servicing buoy balloons. Pending provision servicing craft suggest one Thames vessel to be retained at Dover for this purpose. (Balloon Command 1700/1 to Adty.)

Invasion Base for Battleships

Your 1654/31. If assumption correct that main invasion will be directed against channel ports, and if battleships are to be of value for purpose indicated, they should be at Plymouth with the requisite escorts. This can not be recommended until more fighters are available and the A.A. defences of Plymouth considerably improved, which involves large increase in number of A.A. guns and searchlights as well as the additional balloon barrage approved in A.M. 2010/30). Meantime it would be advantageous to have Battleships in Liverpool or the Clyde; ~~and~~ their departure would probably be delayed until necessary escorts could be made available by withdrawal from convoy duties.

Re-introduction of submarine patrols in the channel also becomes important.
(C. in C., W.A. 0002/1 to Adty.)

War Diary

1.8.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K. (Contd.)

Invasion Base for Battleships (Contd.)

Your 1654/31. Objections to use of Liverpool by Battleships are :- (details)

Consider the use of Clyde prefereable the additional distance being offset by the ability to move at all times.

I have insufficient information to comment on the relative defence strength of the 2 ports but F.O.I.C. Greenock's 1041/24 stresses the absence of A/A defences at that port.

The deduction on which this redistribution is based, if correct, adds considerable weight to my 1018/25/6/40.

Personally I consider it is much more likely to be a ruse to try and make us disperse our forces and station them in localities in which they would be within easy reach of enemy air attack.

BARHAM is not yet fully efficient and as her speed is similar to that of NELSON I would prefer to keep her in company.

If a ship is to be detached I propose it be RODNEY whose speed for the next few months, while retubing of boilers is in progress will not exceed 18 and a half knots.
(C. in C., H.F. 1043/1 to Adty.)

Burning Oil Fuel and Petrol as Defence

Re proposed trial (C. in C., Nore, 1700/1).

Movements

1st C.S.

Expect arrive 0700/2. (F.O.C. 1st C.S. 0828/1 to A.C.O.S.)

BIRMINGHAM SOUTHAMPTON

Intend they proceed to Sheerness at 1715/1 (F.O.C. 18th C.S. to C. in C., Nore).

Submarines

Positions and movements 0600/2 (V.A.S. 1706/1 1708/1).

War Diary

1.8.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Interception of Minelayers One 70-foot M.T.B. and one C.M.T.B. to proceed to arrive Aldeburgh Light Vessel by 2300/1. They are to patrol on silent engine between Light Vessel and point 10 miles 060° from it returning to base at daylight. (C. in C., Nore 1959/1 and 1306/1 to S.O.M.T.Bs Felixstowe).

Brown Ridge Patrol Will be carried out tonight by 3 destroyers (R.A.S. 1521/1 to URSULA).

Operation P.H. Will not take place tonight. (R.A.S. 1521/1 to URSULA).

Iceland Your 1316/31 (1) Delay of destroyers cannot be accepted and they should be sailed as directed by C. in C., Home Fleet. (2) GEORGIC when unloaded to be sailed independently for Halifax. (3) Escort of KONINGIN EMMA between Icelandic ports must be found from Local resources, and ship sent back to Clyde in a returning convoy of empty store ships. (4) It is understood from W.O. that there should already be sufficient temporary accommodation in Iceland. (D.O.D.H. 1311/1 to F.O.I.C. Iceland).

Adty. 1311/1. Request WATCHMAN. VORTIGERN be sailed for Clyde and that hours steamed in each boiler be reported before leaving Iceland. (R.A.D. 1555/1 to F.O.I.C. Iceland).

F.O.I.C. Iceland 1316/31. GEORGIC required sail for U.K. not later than 3/8 as urgently required to take children to Canada. Make every endeavour to solve accommodation problem by rapid discharge tentage shipped in HARMATTAN DALLINGTON COURT and TRENTINO. KONIGIN EMMA may be retained to relieve situation. Tentage not accompanying personnel was unavoidable. (W.O. 2140/1 to Alabaster, Reykjavik).

E-Boats

Your 1339/31. Concur as to the desirability of having suitable Motor Boats operating as Anti-E-Boat forces in Western Approaches but they do not at present exist.

It.....

War Diary

1.8.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

E-Boats (Contd.)

It is at present intended that the 3rd M.A/S.B. Flotilla now working up at Fowey should actually operate against E-Boats in the channel. (A.C.N.S.H. 1550/1 to C. in C., W.A.)

British Air Activity

Korsfiord — Sortie 2 bombed 4000 ton southbound ship in Korsfiord. Near misses and crew abandoning when last seen. (Hatston, 1643/1).

Weather permitting 801 Sqdn. are to attack Oil Tanks at 60°19' N., 5°15' E. tomorrow Hatston to report half an hour before taking off. (A.C.O.S. 2359/1 to Hatson)

Anti-Invasion patrols — Following are to be brought into force 3/8. All previous directions for anti-invasion patrols cancelled (H.Q.C.C. 2010/1).

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy FN.39 — Enemy a/c bombing 54°19' N., 0°14' W. (VALOROUS 1259/1). No hits (VALOROUS 1308/1).

Convoy ARENA (FS) — 1 a/c shadowing at 53°49' N. 1°30' E. (FLEETWOOD 1416/1).

Convoy FN.38 — 1 a/c shadowing position 52°12' N. 1°25' E. course 019 speed 20 knots (TEDWORTH 1836/1). Convoy still being repeatedly bombed (WINCHESTER 1845/1). No damage (WINCHESTER 1922/1).

SWIFT — British, Newcastle to Lynn, attacked at 1140/1 at 120° Flamborough Lighthouse 8 miles. 2 bombs close to ship, both failed to explode. (F.O. Humber 1926/1 to Adty.)

War Diary

1.8.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity (Contd.)

GOTHIC FS Convoy — British tanker 2444 tons, Middlesborough to London, attacked at 1200/1 at 310° Flamborough Head 12 miles. 11 bombs round ship; leaking badly; no casualties. Now in Humber. (F.O. Humber 2221/1 to Adty.)

HIGHLANDER — Attacked by a/c Todhead 2310 /1 (Nore W/T 2314/1). 3 torpedoes fired between 2345 and 2355, possibly from 3 aircraft all missed. Also attacked by M.G. 1st a/c, hit by Holman Projector, crashed on poop losing fuselage and pilot in sea. 2nd hit by Lewis gun crashed in sea 25 yards astern. 2 casualties from M.G. and slight damage to ship. Position close off Todhead. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1251/2 to Adty., N.O.I.C. Leith, 1650/2) (1641/2)

KERRY HEAD — Attacked by aircraft at 1545/1 while 1½ miles S. of Bullman Rock near Old Head of Kinsale. (D.S.332).

Mining

Blyth — Closed until completion of sweeping this morning. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 0155/1 to F.O.I.C. Tyne). Blyth now open (N.O.I.C. Blyth 1156/1).

CITY OF CANBERRA — Mined at 52°6' N. 1°52' E. No 1 Hold making water. Request tugs. SHELDRAKE, VERITY, VETERAN, WORCESTER standing by (EGRET 0632/1 to C. in C., Nore). Bulkhead holding. No casualties. SHELDRAKE in attendance. (VETERAN 0915/1 to C. in C., Nore). If Possible should proceed to Southend. Tugs coming from Harwich and Yarmouth. (C. in C., Nore 1019/1 to SHELDRAKE) Arrived at Harwich (D.S. 3/8).

Fishguard — Port closed. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0740/1 to Adty.). 2 magentic mines dropped last night and not yet swept. Cross-channel vessels being allowed to enter in daylight. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1916/1 to A.C.W.A.)

War Diary

1.8.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining (Contd.)

Cromarty & Inverness Firths	Mine exploded by "M" sweep 097° Port War Signal Station south Soutor. Cromarty and Inverness Firths closed. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon 0828/1). Channel swept and dammed. Port now open. Search of suspected area continues. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon 2045/1 to C. in C., Rosyth).
Dundee	Port now reopened. (N.O.I.C. Dundee, 1030/1 to Adty.)
Milford Haven	Open. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1130/1 to Adty.)
North Shields	One mine detonated Red Pole 302° Blyth East Pier Light 8 cables. (P.M.S.O. North Shields, 1140/1 to F.O.I.C. Tyne).
Harwich	5 mines exploded or sunk. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1247/1, 1756/1).
Aberdeen	Exploded magnetic blue mine at 1005 in 57°8'10" N. 2°2' W. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1321/1 to Adty.)
Thames Estuary	One red mine detonated by LL sweepers 310° N.E. Spit Buoy 4 cables. (C. in C., Nore 1517/1 to Adty.)
French Coastal Route	Indications from a/c reports that coastal route from Eastward to Boulogne is being swept by enemy vessels. For consideration that magnetic ground mines should be laid across it near No. 1 Calais Buoy or between K Buoy and Les Quenocs. (V.A. Dover 1817/1 to Adty.)
East Coast mine barrier	Intend leave Humber with PLOVER, VAN DER ZAAN, and 20th D.F. at 2200/1, returning same route Humber. Air escort should join me at 0400/2 in 53°37' N. 2°6' E. remaining in sight till dark. (D.20 1915/31 to C. in C. Nore).
Swansea	Red mines exploded by LL.153° 1.37 miles and 139° 1.25 miles from Mumbles Head. (N.O.I.C. Swansea 1925/1 to Adty.)

War Diary

1.8.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Harwich — Fast mine sweepers. M/S trawlers and paddlers will be operating between 0800 and 1300 tomorrow Friday between positions C P W T 4748, C P W T 5546, L S W T 0853. Request fighter protection. (C. in C., Nore, 2255/1).

Thames Estuary New Swept Channel — Convoy traffic in Thames Approaches will be stopped on Sunday 4th on which day all available vessels of 4th and 6th M/S Flotillas are to carry out a clearing sweep for one mile on each side of a centre ~~mine~~ line extending from position Z. through 54 A Buoy to Sunk Lt. Vessel. Vessels from these Flotillas are to return to Harwich as soon as sweeping operations on Saturday are over and make preparations for this clearing operation which is to be in charge of S.O. 6th M.S.F. Proposed to use new channel thus cleared for shipping on Monday 5th and to close Q.Z.S. 137. Further clearance sweep from 54 A Buoy to X. and then southward will then be carried out by fast minesweepers. Daily search sweeps of the new channel being maintained by Trawlers. (C. in C., Nore, 2333/1 to F.O.I.C. Harwich).

Enemy Intelligence

Christiansund — 3 large ships steaming in line ahead 5 miles S. of Christiansund. (Donibristle 1410/1 to Adty.)

2 destroyers and 1 unidentified vessel in harbour, and 1 tanker approaching the harbour (Air Min. 2005/1 to Adty.)

Raegifiord — 1 large vessel steering S.E., 10 miles S.W. of Raegifiord. (Donibristle 1410/1 to Adty.)

At 1204/1 in 53°40' N., 4°45 '., 3 minesweepers course 150° speed 5 knots. (Donibristle, 1505/1 to Adty.)

At 1332/1 in 53°30' N. 4° E. 1 50-ton Ketch with Danish markings. (Donibristle 1505/1 to Adty.)

Main German Units — No further information. (D.D.I.C. 1558/1 to AIG. 45).

War Diary

1.8.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence (Contd.)

Kiel

Preliminary inspection of photos taken 1/8 indicate that following were present: GNEISENAU, SCHARNHORST, LUTZOW, one HIPPER, one K class cruiser, approx.7 submarines . Considerable activity in Kiel Canal. (D.D.I.C. 0123/2).

PRU sortie 1/8 shows at Kiel submarines 8-500 ton, 6-300 ton (P.I.U. 0530/2).

GT/182, PRU sortie H/56 date 1/8/40 covers Kiel Canal from Holtenau to Burg Ferry 8 miles from Brunsbuettel. Activity much reduced by comparison with previous occasion H/18 15/7/40. Towards Brunsbuettel no warships except 2 E-boats 2 M.V. 460' 3 over 200' 17 under 200'. Towards Holtenau one 460' one 300' two 240' seven less than 200'. Activity at Holtenau aerodrome much reduced large scale photographs show only 8 aircraft. Seaplane base normally occupied. (P.I.U., 0335/2).

Kiel

Photos. taken 1/8 show both battleships in dry-dock and a K-class cruiser in dry-dock alongside LUTZOW. A HIPPER-class cruiser in Arsenal Wharf and seven submarines in the Harbour. (M. H.Q.B.C. Recd. 0200/2).

Helder

At 1104/1, 13 miles West of Den Helder, a Flak Ship proceeding due East. (H.Q.B.C. Recd. 0200/2).

Shipping

Convoy of 51 ships passed Cumbers Southwards between 0815 and 1015, speed 8 knots, escorted by A/S trawlers MAN O'WAR and ARAB. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1051/1 to REVENGE).

Convoy W.S.2. Sailing date. Ships and escorts. (D.O.D.H. 1058/1).

Convoy T.C.6. Arrived Clyde. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1430/1 to Adty.)

Convoy Sailing Schedule Your 1313/23. Consur with proposed Schedule. Provisions as to escorts. (A.C.N.S.T. 1445/1 to C. in C., W.A.)

War Diary

1.8.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping (Contd.)

FANDANGO	My 1248 and Adty. 1424. Will be required to sail pm/4 or am/5 to escort coastal portion of convoy OA.193. (C. in C., W.A. 1708/1 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).
O.G. Convoys	Ships of speeds between 8 and 9 knots bound for South Atlantic ports may be sailed in O.G. convoys. To part company on reaching meridian 15°0' W. and proceed independently inaccordance with my 1531/31/7 (D.T.D. 1052/1).
C.E. convoy	Cancel my 1214/29/7. Earliest anticipated date for next C.E. convoy is 8/8 (D.T.D. 1129/1).
OA & HX Convoys W/T procedure	W/T procedure to be ~~received~~ viewed. During last few days two important operation signals have not been received by ships concerned (C. in C., Rosyth, 1801/31).
Convoy HX.62	Escort AURANIA. Sailing date and route (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1230/31).
Repatriation of British Soldiers GOTHENBURG	My 1925/28. Swedish GOTHENBURG sailing from Petsamo 2230/31 speed 10 knots, routed for Lerwick according to my telegram. (N.A. Stockholm 1055/1 to Adty.)

War Diary

1.8.40.
Thursday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

CITY OF PERTH — From Lorenzo Marques. Now 36 hours overdue at Penang. (S.O.I. Singapore, 0303Z/1).

ARMADALE, British / OLE JACOB, Norwegian — In collision night of 31/1. Both now in Wellington and badly damaged. (Navy Office, Wellington 0502Z/1 to Adty.)

CITY OF CANBERRA — See Mining.

JAMAICA PROGRESS — Torpedoed 2300/30. 18 survivors landed by Barra lifeboat at Castle Bay. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1105/1 to A.C.W.A.).

CITY OF BRISBANE / CITY OF DUNDEE — Aground 1 mile N.E. of L.1 Buoy. Request tugs be sent immediately. (WOLSEY 1142/1 to C. in C. Nore). Have tried and failed to tow off CITY OF DUNDEE. Am proceeding (WOLSEY 1308/1 to C. in C., Nore).

Merchant Vessel — One M/V disabled at 53°57' N. 0°17' E. (FLEETWOOD 1225/1 to N.O.I.C. Humber).

WHITSHED (Mined 31/7) — Weather permitting will be sailed from Harwich for West India Docks at daylight 2nd July, proceeding stern first under own power assisted by tug KROOMAN and escorted by 1 corvette. Request Fighter protection. (C. in C., Nore, 1302/1 to F.O.I.C. Harwich) Sailing postponed 24 hours ?C. in C., Nore, 1856/1).

War Diary. 1.8.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

M.Daladier. (see also Mediterranean). Message from British Consul General, Tangier, with no. T.00. is passed to you. No ship at Gibraltar available for intercepting. (F.O.C.N.A. to Admty. and S.O. Force H. 1506/1).

Aircraft. Gibraltar. Your 2239/30. Question of Hurricanes being considered. No objection to use of Skuas if V.A.A. makes available provided that they are ostensibly landed for purpose of training and maintenance and assurance given to Spanish Government by Ambassador, Madrid, 27/11/39, are thereby fully complied with. You will appreciate political importance at present juncture of avoiding infringement of Spanish neutrality.
(W.O. to Chief, Gibraltar, 2110/1).

Las Palmas. Defence measures against invasion, A/A batteries, petrol stocks increased.
(Las Palmas 1030/1).

South Atlantic.

Raider. If ship reported by British DOMINGO DE LARRINAGA is a raider it is unlikely to be ship engaged by ALCANTARA. Therefore important you should adhere to your original instructions.
(C. in C. S.A. to CUMBERLAND 1145/1).

Convoys. Your 1040/30. Troop movement referrred to is now in abeyance. W.2. and W.3. are being sailed from Colombo for Sydney for Australian troop convoy to Middle East.
(D.O.D.(F) to C. in C. S.A. 1241/1).

In order that S.L. Convoy escort programme is not further dislocated, essential that CARNARVON CASTLE arrive Freetown not later than 1/9. Request arrangements accordingly.
(C. in C. S.A. to N.O.I.C. Belfast 0935/1).

Informing MALOJA of routes of Convoys S.L.F.41, 20 ships, escorted by PRETORIA CASTLE and S.L. 42 about 34 ships, escorted by DELHI. Air or S/M. attack from Dakar is still possibility as reprisal for our attack on RICHELIEU.
(C. in C. S.A. 1225/1).

War Diary

1.8.1940.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic. Contd.

ALCANTARA — Re time of arrival at Rio de Janeiro (C. in C., S.A., 1905/1) Brazilian authorities have agreed to repairs and remaining four days. (N.A., Rio de Janeiro, 1006/(1)

DRAGON — Your 1731/31. DRAGON will escort convoy R.S. 5 from Cape (?) to R.V. in Durban area. Request you communicate R.V. for change of escort and S.N.O. Simonstown is then to sail DRAGON and Convoy R.S. 5 from Cape to comply. (C. in C., S.A., 0914/1)

KOSMOS, Norwegian — In view of presence of enemy raider in S. Atlantic request consider advisability of moving Norwegian ship KOSMOS from Walvis Bay to some better defended anchorage. Norwegian Shipping Mission somewhat concerned for her safety. (D.T.D. to C. in C., S.A., 1818/1)

CORFU — Conference on board CORFU this morning. Decided no further progress can be made without beaching ship, and the minimum time required effecting temporary repairs if no set-backs is three month. Further signal follows proposing disposal of portion of her armament and further reduction of crew. (C. in C., S.A., 1755/1)

Use of CORFU Guns — My 1755/1. G.O.C., West Africa enquiring whether the four 6- in. guns from CORFU can be loaned to Army fro defence of Takoradi and Lagos. In event of approval it is intended to supply each gun with its outfit of ammunition. (C. in C., S.A., 1800/1

HAWKINS
ALCANTARA
QUEEN OF BERMUDA — Orders for patrol, fuelling, etc., (R.A.S.A. D., 2159Z/1)

War Diary

1.8.1940.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Enemy Convoy — Your 1503/31, re enemy convoy seen passing through Straits of Messina, approved. (C. in C., Med. to V.A., Malta, 1004/1)

Operations — Am in general agreement with your 2110/30. Exceptions (C. in C., Med., to F.O., Force H., 1007/1, see Mediterranean Volume)

After operation now in hand, it is not intended to carry out any large scale operation until Operation Hats. (C. in C., to Admty., 0955/1, see Mediterranean Volume)

Submarine Sanctuary — Times in force at Alexandria, 2/8 and 3/8. (R.A., Alexandria, 1123/1)

Shipping — Concur your 0123/27, but earlier information to Barker re ships available for reloading would make for smoother organisation. (C. in C., Med., to D. of S.T., 1137/1)

Enemy Ships — One ship of Italian cruiser class GIOVANNI DELLE BANDE NERE passes northward through Strait of Messina at 0700. Four ships of class cruiser BOLZANO or EUGENIO DI SAVOIA escorted by destroyers passed through Straits of Messina northbound at 1230. (OSWALD, 1230/1) (Apparently this signal disclosed OSWALD's position to enemy and led to her loss- see V.A. Malta 1403/2)

Operation "Hurry" — Admty. 1906/31. It is not clear whether this means that no further reinforcements of Hurricanes will be sent to Malta or whether some other means of forwarding them has been found. It is very much hoped that former is not the case. (C. in C., Med., 1249/1) Admty. 1906/31. Its is assumed that it will not now be necessary for VALIANT to enter Malta during operations "Hats". Request any stores for Malta be shipped in CALCUTTA and COVENTRY who will h have to enter to fuel. (C. in C., Med., 1301/1).

/Force B.,..... .

War Diary

1.8.1940.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean, Contd.

Force B. — Returned to harbour at 1000 to-day owing to developement of condenser trouble in MALAYA. (C. in C., Med., 1251/1)

M. Daladier — Has informed U.S. Consul-General, Casablanca, that he is to leave Algiers today at 4 p.m. or to-morrow Friday at noon in French ship GENERAL GUEYDON for for Marseilles, route not given. Will be accompanied by a number of his collaborators, names unknown. M. Daladier has suggested ship be intercepted by H.M. ship and that he and his friends be transferred to England. Unable to guarantee information. Possibility of Franco-Italian trap. (F.O.C.N.A., to Admty., 1553/1)

ENTERPRISE interception Attempt. — ENTERPRISE to endeavour to intercept GOVERNOR GENERAL DE GUEYDON, and if she is not escorted by a French man-of-war Daladier and party are to be transferred to ENTERPRISE if they wish. If ship is escorted she is not to be interfered with. (D.O.D. (F) to V.A., Force H, 1938/1)

Your 1938/1. Have requested British Consul-General, Tangier, to inform me time of departure from Algiers if obtainable. (F.O.C.N.A., 2138/1)

Informing submarines PROTEUS and PANDORA of interception attempt by ENTERPRISE. (F.O.C.N.A., 2320/1)

OSWALD Sunk — Italian communique claims to have sunk British S/M OSWALD in the Ionian Sea. Was rammed by destroyer VIVALDI and afterwards torpedoed by same ship. 52 of crew of 55 saved by the destroyer, including C.O. Comdr. David Fraser (Press)

OSIRIS — Orders for Operation B.S. 2 in Straits of Otranto. (Capt. S.I., 1436/1)

/V.A. (D).....

War Diary

1.8.1940.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean, Contd.

R.A. (D). At your discretion arrive Alexandria tomorrow, passing through Kaso or Kithera after dark tonight. (C. in C., Med., to R.A.D. 1459/1)

ROYAL SOVEREIGN My 1309/31. Departure of ships is postponed for about four days. (C. in C., Med., 1509/1)

Enemy Convoy Not Attacked Your 170/31. OSWALD's 1530/30 was received in Admty., at 2048/30. It was not realised that this signal had not been received by F.O.C., Malta, until 2145 zone- 2. When Admty. 1034/31 was sent it was assumed that OSWALD's signal had been received much earlier by Malta as the time of origin was 1560. [?] The difficulty of intercepting enemy forces between Italy and Libya by surface forces is fully appreciated. (1st. S.L., to C. in C., Med., 1747/1)

Cagliari Flying boat patrol reports 1 destroyer and large number of merchant ships in Cagliari Harbour. Three submarines leaving harbour 1400 G.M.T. (F.O., Malta, 1803/1)

Air.

Malta Raid 18 A/C circled Malta about 1845/31, but no bombs dropped. Fighters failed to intercept owing to bad visibility. (H.Q., Malta, 1645/1)

War Diary

1.8.1940.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Suspicious Signals

My 1056/30. re whereabouts of Swedish ship AGRA and H.M.S. KENT picking up bearings. Ship's D/F set now found to be unreliable, amount of error not known. Is the position of ship AGRA known? (C. in C., E.I., to D.N.I., 0314Z/1)

Red Sea Armistice

S.N.O. Red Sea 1012/24. Consul, Djibuti 55 of 31/7 to Foreign Office says Germain met Italians 29/7. Consul is informed armistice on basis of status quo is likely implication being that terms will be satisfactory to H.M. Government. (C. in C., E.I., to Admty., 0454Z/1)

Convoy

Transport W.1. sailed 0945Z/1 in accordance with C. in C., E.I. 0733/25/7 and F.O.C. Singapore 0430/26. (N.O.I.C., Trincomalee, 1025Z/1, 1129Z/1)

CAP VARELLA

C. in C., China 0327/1. Concur in French ship CAP VARELLA if necessary being detained at Colombo, but would prefer troops to be transhipped at Singapore for repatriation to Indo-China if means are available to effect this. Assume it is only the ship we want to hold if eventual reply from Madagascar is unfavourable. (C. in C., E.I. 1038Z/1)

Assab, Kismayu

C. in C., Med., 1307/31, Unless directed otherwise by Admiralty, do not intend to bombard Assab targets. Consider therefore 80 rounds of 15-in C.P.C. sufficient for possible bombardment of Kismayu. (Further suggestions re ammunition and equipments) (C. in C., E.I., 1816/1.)

Suspicious Ship

Ship showing lights and manoeuvring strangely direction Ras Dumeira, now approaching me. My position 210° Perim 5 miles. (PARRAMATTA, 2225Z/1 to S.N.O., Red Sea)

My 2225 was Greek ship PETRAKIS NOMIKOS bound for Abadan. Have directed her to Aden. Request ask her why she steamed away from me and then remained stopped when I ceased to chase. (PARRAMATTA, 2255/1)

/Port Sudan.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies, Contd.

Port Sudan Raid

In an air attack on Port Sudan a.m./1., it is reported that the attacking Italian bombers had British markings and other camouflage. (D.S., from Sec. 111) One enemy aircraft dropped two bombs Port Sudan 0805 B today. No serious damage, one person injured. Fighter returning 2/8. (N.O.I.C., Port Sudan, 21502/1)

French Zones

Your 12022/31. By letter received yesterday new Governor-General according to telegram just received from French Minister for Colonies 20-miles limit concerns warships only. His excellency adds, British merchant ships may therefore come within interior of this zone. Have asked for more explicit indications. (Consul, Tananarive, to F.O., Malaya, passed Admty., for information, 0930/1)

Until specific assurance of non-interference with British Norwegian ships entering or leaving Madagascar ports is received, intend present policy be adhered to. British Consul informed accordingly. (C. in C., E.I., 12402/1)

In view of Consul, Tananarive's 0930/1, ~~xxxxx~~ action proposed in your 0646/27 and approved in Admty. 1551/28 appears no longer necessary. If you concur, request you will cancel action now being taken in order to avoid difficulty with Annamite troops. (A.C.N.S., (T) to C. in C., E.I., 2030/1)

Routes

My 1300/31. Use of standard route given on S.D. 01671 A routeing chart and in East Indies War Memorandum 55 and 61 and in my 1040/19/7 and 0624/26/7 is to be discontinued forthwith. No new standard route will be promulgated in lieu. N.C.S.O's are as far as possible to route ships so as to achieve maximum dispersion of shipping over each ocean highway and to avoid repeated use of any one track. (C. in C., E.I., 07062/1). My 0706/1. After East Indies War Memorandum No 61 add East Indies War Memorandum No 68. (C. in C., E.I., 0800/2/2)

War Diary

1.8.1940.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

Indo-China

My 1543Z/31, British ships proceeding Indo-China ports. Do not take action on 2nd Paragraph until further orders. (C. in C., China, 0325Z/1, to S70.I's Shanghai, Hong Kong, Singapore.)

CAP VARELLA

My 1541Z/31. If CAP VARELLA is intercepted consider it undesirable from political aspect to retain her on may station. Do not wish to prejudice my relations with Indo-China and propose ship be escorted to Colombo after fuelling or provisioning if necessary. Intend to inform Admiral Decoux that her interception was ordered by British Government on account of anti-British activities of Madagascar Government who were given due notice of this action. (C. in C., China, to Admty., 0327Z/1)

Canton Gunboats

Orders to proceed to Hong Kong in event of strained relations with Japan. In event of war with Japan developing without warning, act as circumstances dictate, object being to withdraw to Hong Kong if possible whilst inflicting as much damage as possible on enemy. Ensure the destruction of your ships if necessary to avoid capture. Loss of life with no commensurate loss to the enemy should be avoided. (C. in C., China, to S.N.O., Canton, 0527Z/1)

America & West Indies

DUNEDIN
DESPATCH
DIONEDA

Orders for patrol, outer Reunion patrol lines, and fuelling at Tortola. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1021/1)

Slow Convoys

Admty. 2013/30, slow convoy to Clyde from Sydney, C.B. Request information from which North American port it is intended ships should proceed to Sydney for inclusion in convoy. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1122/1

War Diary

1.8.1940.
Thursday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

BRAKE — My 2230/30. Cargo of petrol discharged by BRAKE reported to be about 4,500 tons. also expected to discharge 1186 tons lubricating oil into drums bought by Madrid firm. (Consul, Vigo, 2046/1)

FULDA — Reported from Dairen that Japanese Master and crew arrived there 30/7 to take over FULDA, 7744 G.T., recently reported sold to a Japanese firm. (S.O.I., Shanghai, 02292/1)

VESLEKARI — Norwegian wooden fishing vessel, 296 G.T., stated to have been fitted out under German control fo a voyage to N.E. Coast of Greenland. Vessel now at Aalesund. (D.S)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

MONTIORE — 5498 G.T. At New Orleans. Reported 31/7 to be discharging cargo of scrap iron into Greek ship MEMAS for a Japanese port. (D.S.)

War Diary

1.8.1940.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked.

JAMAICA PROGRESS

A/C report, ship's lifeboat under sail six men on board 215 Barra Head 5 at 2130. (C. in C., W.A., 0011/1).

D.O., Kyle, reports Barra lifeboat returned 0830/1 with survivors from JAMAICA PROGRESS torpedoed 2300/30. Still one boat missing with 30 men on board. (C. in C., Rosyth, 0839/1)

Kyle later reports Barra lifeboat landed 18 survivors at Castle Bay, and report received that a ship's lifeboat had been sighted 2-3 miles S.W. of Flannan Isles at 0830. Stornoway sending tug, etc., (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1105/1)

My 1105. Chief Officer, JAMAICA PROGRESS states ship torpedoed in approx. position 56.26' N., 8.12' W. Missing boat with 30 survivors probably include 2 women. (F.O.I.C. -Greenock, 1230/1)

Master of JAMAICA PROGRESS reports ship torpedoed in position 56°26' N., 8°30' W. 29 survivors, including 2 women, landed by trawler NEWLANDS at Fleetwood. Total number on board originally 55 plus one stowaway. (C. in C., W.A., 1858/1). Not in convoy.

THESEUS

Dutch, 1306 tons, attacked by s/m, 51:48 N., 21.21 W. 1422. (Valencia Radio, 1425/1).

SIGYN

Swedish 2003 tons wreckage found, 56.12 N., 9.21 W., presumed sunk by U/B Wreckage reported by a/c at 0930/1. SIGYN not in convoy. Sunk by s/m at 0103/1 in 56.10 N., 09.25 W. Crew saved and landed Liverpool.

Submarines Reported

0523 — Small s/m on surface apparently stationary and heading 240°, 52.55 N., 2.30 E., reported by a/c. (H.Q., Bomber Cmd., no T.O.O./2) Intelligence Summary No. 337).

1104 — S/m seen at periscope depth, 52.57 N., 4.33 E., proceeding north. S/m dived on approach of Blenheim. (H.Q.? BOMBER Cmd., no T.O.O./2). Intelligence Summary No. 337).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported (Contd.)

1035 — One enemy s/m bearing 020° distance 5 miles approx. true course 220, position XZWT 2620 (? NZWT, if so, 59°26' N. 1°20'E.) (A/c of H.M.S. ?, 1230/1). (D.S. gives position 59°31'N., 1°25' E.)

1522 — A.F. message, 51°48' N., 21°21' W., 1422/1 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C., 1713/1). Cancelled (D.D.I.C., 1902/1).

1612 — Sighted by a/c 55°30' N., 8°31' W., course 090, speed 6 knots, at periscope depth. A/c dived on s/m, which crash dived. No bombs dropped as reflection of sun's rays rendered close observation impossible as to exact position of s/m. Sea marker dropped on position which was afterwards defined by thin streak of oil. A/c remained circling round position for almost 2 hours. (Donibristle, 2020/1).

1820 — U-boat in position 56°06' N., 2°26' E. Enemy passed at 20,000 yards, course and speed, 330, 12, visibility 10 miles. (Netherlands S/m 022, 1820/1).

1126 — My 2107/31, HURRICANE to escort coastal portion of O.A. 192. HURRICANE continue search for U-boat. ST. KENAN to escort coastal portion to Liverpool. (C. in C., W.A., 1126/1). See also submarines attacked.

2010 — 54°35' N., 8°40'W. (C.3 report) (D.S.)

Estimated U/b dispositions. The one believed to have been between Madeira and Cape de Verde Islands may now be moving northwards.
1 in Western Approaches or farther South.
1 in Western Approaches.
2 or possibly 3 in N.W. Approaches.
Possibly 1 between Faroes and Iceland.
(D.D.I.C., 1240/1).

War Diary

1.8.40.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Attacked

1614 — Netherlands S/m 021 attacked ~~xxx~~ small U/b in position 55°23'N.,2°31'W., enemy course 350°, speed 12 knots. No hits. (S/m 021, 1614/1).

1640 — A/c attacked small U/b in position 55°23' N., 8°27' W. Enemy course and speed 350, 12 knots. (C. in C., W.A., 2218/1).

1908 — Please join me for a contact. (HURRICANE to GLEANER, 1905/1). Am proceeding in execution C. in C., W.A.'s 1802. Can you manage alone? (GLEANER to HURRICANE 1947/1). JASON coming to your assistance. (GLEANER to HURRICANE 2000/1). HURRICANE 1905. GLEANER and JASON proceed as in my 1802. (C. in C., W.A., 2018/1). Proceeding in execution of your 1802. JASON detached to assist HURRICANE. (GLEANER to C. in C., W.A. 2012/1). My 1908. One 5 charge pattern and one 14 charge pattern attacks have been carried out on reasonably firm contact in 1,000 fathoms which has now been lost. 16 explosions heard in the latter attack. No positive r sults, but small bubbles were still rising on searching firing position 5 minutes later. (HURRICANE, 2148/1).

Am attacking good contact in position 56°29' N., 9°45' W. Have asked GLEANER to join me. (HURRICANE, 1908/1).

Mediterranean and East Indies

Submarines Reported — By a/c engaged in bombing attack on Chinele, sighted s/m which crash dived, 11°57' N., 43°58' E. (H.Q., Aden, 1835/1).

Operations Volume
Most Secret.

O/S
6/6/40 - 2/8/40

MOST SECRET

2.8.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Intend to raid Bear Island fishing gounds with two 8-inch cruisers to mack an air attack on suitable objectives in Trondheim area with aircraft from FURIOUS escorted by NELSON and BARHAM. Both operations to take place in morning 6/8 or 7/8. Request concurrence and remarks as to most suitable objectives for an attack. (C. in C., H.F. 1029/2 to Admty.)

Your 1029/2. Prefer that operations against Bear Island and Trondheim should be postponed for about 10 days for following reasons

(a) For another week it will be a moonless period which we have always considered most likely for an invasion.

(b) Up to about the middle of the month you will be very short of cruisers.

(c) Desirable to make a concerted effort against the U-Boats in the Approaches to the Northern Channel. At present they are rather getting on top of us.

B. Photographic reconnaissance of Kiel 1/8 sh showed that both SCHARNHORST and GNEISNAU are in floating docks there and consequently not likely your battle cruisers will be required to go to sea at same time as the battleships unless to escape a heavy air attack on Scapa of which we get previous warning.

C. Subject to your remarks, propose you should retain sufficient destroyers to screen one pair of capital ships and to meet other known commitments for screening, and send the remainder to C. in C., W.A., to act as hunting flotillas in the Northern Approaches.

D. We are moving one division of the 5th Flotilla to Rosyth and in an emergency whilst your destroyers were away hunting they could join up with you.

(1st S.L. 1933/2 to C. in C., H.F.)

War Diary

2.8.1940.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements.

Nore Forces	My 0419 (re Air reconnaissance) All forces may now revert to normal notices for steam. (C. in C., Nore 0815/2) See Air.
YORK	Proceed to Rosyth for docking. To arrived p.m. /3 C. in C., Rosyth provide air escort (C.in C., H.F. 1058/2)
QUORN	My 1227/31/7. Trials unsatisfactory, sailing delayed. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1207/2)
ILLUSTRIOUS	Prefer she should proceed to Scapa to complete programme subsequent to 10/8. Destroyer screen will be provided. Re Adty. 1925/1. (C. in C., H.F. 1117/2.)
WATCHMAN VORTIGERN	Sailed for Clyde, expected time of arrival 0900/4 (F.O.I.C. Iceland 0635/2)
REVENGE	Remaining at Clyde at 4 hours notice until required to sail for Halifax as escort for outward bound liners 10/8. (D.C.D. (F) 1706/2)
Dover Patrols	Night 2/3 Aug. (V.A. Dover 1707/2)
Submarines	Positions and movements for next 24hours at 0600/3 (V.A. (S) 1717/2)
	Air reconnaissance incomplete. Groups 2, 5,6, remain at ½ hours notice (C. in C., Nore 0419/2)

/Operations.....

War Diary

2.8.1940.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Maas Scheldt & Aldeburgh L.F. Patrols	My 1444/31/7. Operation PJ is to be carried out tonight (C. in C., Nore,1153/2) 6 M.T.B's will leave Harwich about 2000/2 for operations off Dutch coast, returning about 0600/3. 2 MA/SB's will leave Yarmouth about 2100 for patrol near Aldeburgh L.F. returning at day light. (C. in C., Nore 1200/2)
Operations by 8 inch cruisers. FURIOUS A/C NELSON, BARHAM	C. in C., H.F. 1029/2 1st S.L. 1933/2 See Operations Volume.
Intercention of E-Boats	The operation ordered in my 1523/31/7 is to be repeated tonight (C. in C., Nore 1151/2)
Operation by Submarines	Admty.1046/2 (See Enemy Intelligence) Intend reducing number of submarines now on anti invasion patrol North of 56 degs. N. and carry out a concerted attack on Coastal traffic between Skudesnes and Lillesand. 1631/2.

Orders for S /M's to return from patrol (R.A.(S) 1633/2)
S/M's proceed so as to be near following positions during night 3/4 Aug. SEALION Homborsund, SWORDFISH The Naze, SUNFISH PCUB 0050, SPEARFISH PCUB 3040, SEAWOLF PCUB 4000. Object of attack coastal traffic. SEALION SWORDFISH SUNFISH and SEAWOLF are to leave the above positions at 2300 5th August and proceed dived by day to PCTA 4040 thence with despatch through pCSC 3000. SEALION SUNFISH SEAWOLF North of 281 Q Z gap A to Rosyth SWORDFISH as ordered Capt. (S) 6. SPEARFISH is to leave 0001 6th Aug. and patrol in zone C.1. S/M after attacking coastal traffic or if forced by other circumstances may withdraw as necessary seawards. Bombing restrictions arranged. Situation reports not required on leaving patrol. (V.A.(S) 1637/2 to S/M's on patrol).

War Diary

2.8.40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Air - British Air Activity.

Your 2359/1. One Skua leaving at 1245 to report weather in 60° 15' N. 4° 30' E. (Hatston 1230/2)

Anti-invasion patrols.	to be flown daily by 18 group weather permitting. Details (C. in C.Rosyth 1816/2)
Air searches	for 3/8 (C. in C.Rosyth 1932/2)
R.A.F. operations	Naval targets attacked (See Situation Report) (H Q B C 0428/3)

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy "PILOT"	Shadowed by 1 a/c 53° 48' N. 0° 32' E. (WINCHESTER 0830/2) Shadowed by 1 a/c 54° 7' N. 0° 0' (JUPITER 1105/2)
BURKE	2 a/c circling 114° N.Foreland 5.25 miles (BURKE 1209/2, 1215/2)
Convoy "AGENT"	Shadowed by 1 enemy a/c 52° 57' N. 2° 12' E. (WOLSEY 2106/2) Shadowed 52° 55' N. 1° 18' E. (EGRET 2107/2)
CITY OF BRISBANE See also casualties and defects.	(Ashore on South Long Sand) Bombed 1657 during salvage operations damaged by 2 bombs (C. in C. Nore 1807/2) Unlikely vessel can be floated (C. in C.Nore 1921/2) Salvage operations had to be abandoned 1915/2 owing to persistent bombing attacks - vessel now badly damaged, all compartments on fire aft near magazine. Some loss of life among crew. (C. in C.Nore 1426/3)
CAPE FINISTERRE	A/P trawler CAPE FINISTERRE was attacked by 4 enemy aircraft at about 1930. She shot down the first aircraft which has since been confirmed, but was sunk by near miss from remaining three aircraft who each dropped one bomb in position H Q details of casualties as in my 0300/3. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1313/3)
Llainon oil tanks	6 bombs dropped in close proximity last night at 2315. No damage to Admty. personnel or property (F.O. i/c Milford Haven 0948/2)
West Beam	Bomb fell on West Beam at 1750 (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 1321/2)

War Diary

2.8.40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Blyth — Port closed until swept. Suspected magnetic minelaying (N.O.I/C Blyth, 0148/2) Mine detonated 1422 (p.m./S Officer North Shields 1506/2) Blyth is now open (N.O.I.C.Blyth 1623/2)

Blyth — Both ports closed. Suspected magnetic minelaying.

Tyne — (F.O. i/c Tyne 0200/2) Tyne now open (F.O.I/C Tyne 1516/2) Blyth now open (F.O.I.C.Tyne 1616/2)

Aberdeen. — Port closed until swept. Suspected minelaying by enemy a/c (N.O. I/C Aberdeen 0224/2) Port open at 1530 (N.O. I.C.Aberdeen 1621/2)

Greenock. — Port closed due to suspected minelaying (F.O. I/C Greenock 0300/2) Cancel my 0300/2. Port is now open (F.O. I/C Greenock 0910/2).

Rosyth. — Closed (C. in C.Rosyth 0721/2) Parachute mine suspected approx. 329 Gullane Ness 2 to 3 miles (C. in C.Rosyth 082/2) Port is now open (C. in C.Rosyth 1011/2)

M.A./S.B. operation — Operation ordered in my 1523/31/7 is to be repeated tonight (C. in C.Nore 1151/2 to S.O. 2nd M.A./S.B. F.L.)

Barrow Deep Channel — Barrow Deep channel which is about to be brought into use is a good channel if well swept but is easy to mine. Originally intended to sweep this channel with M D ships but their value as sweepers is now very small. In view of the present mine attack on the Thames Approaches urgently request that two FLOWER class corvettes which it is understood are now fitted for magnetic sweeping may be attached to the Nore Command until M D ships are fitted with tails. (C. in C. Nore 1252/2 to Adty.)

Your 1252/2. Not anticipated that first two corvettes to be fitted with L.L. sweep will be ready for service before end of month. Urgent nature of this requirement is appreciated and will be met as soon as possible (D.O.D.(H) 1856/2.)

Invergordon. — Another mine exploded. Port is now closed. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1805/2) Mine detonated. Port open (F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1720/2).

Anti M/L patrols — A M 1 nightly, A M 2 on alternate nights. Details (C. in C. Rosyth 1811/2)

2 Minelayer seaplanes near 51° 27' N. 1°27' E. (VESPER 2335/2)

War Diary 2.8.40 .
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining.

Portsmouth — 3 mines detonated (C. in C.Portsmouth 1915/2)

Harwich — 10 mines cut or detonated (F.O.I.C.Harwich 2116/2)

Enemy Intelligence

A/S Transmission — Vessel outside Dartmouth using A/S Transmissior 0145/0350/2 (C. in C. W.A. 0156/2, N.O. I/C Dartmouth 0820/2) Seems no doubt this was AMETHYST (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1455/2) Patrol report. 30/7 3 M.V's left Gironde steering approx. 325° all wearing French flag, course abnormal for coastwise traffic (V.A.S.1156/2)

A/C of Kiel — My 0123/2.8. Reconnaissance of Kiel 1.8.40.
SCHARNHORST in southern floating dock. G
GNEISENAU in northern floating dock. HIPPER class cruiser at Naval Quay.
Note. Air Min.D.S. 380 says HIPPER class cruiser in dry dock.
KOLN in No. V dock.
LUTZOW in No. VI dry dock.
1 destroyer in No. 1 dry dock.
14 submarines in harbour of which 6 are at Germania Yard.
No unusual merchant ship concentration.
The activity in Kiel Canal is less than that observed 15/7. 2 E Boats and 22 merchant ships (17 under 200') are proceeding towards Brunsbuttel and 11 merchant ships (7 under 200') towards Holtenau. (D.D. I.C.,1046/2)

Enemy Ship Movements.

5 cruisers — 2/8. Ten miles west of the Hague 0623 five warships light cruiser type in Diamond formation steaming west six miles northwest of Veere 1210. Naval patrol vessel about 500 tons taking evasive action.
Woalhaven 1227 many small fishing boats moored to quays south side.
Five miles off Rijnsburg 1010 convoy of five ships with two D destroyers course south.
Barges 0737 in Amsterdam Canal. Very few observed.
Willemstad area 1220 twenty/thirty barges.

Destroyer burnt out — Zeebrugge 1155 destroyer fifty yards out from Mole completely burnt out.

N//C 1/8 of Calais.....

War Diary

2.8.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence, Contd.

R/C. 1/8 of Calais, Boulogne & Dieppe Harbours

About six barges reported in the inner basin above Sluice Gates at Boulogne. Ten small coasting vessels well dispersed in outer harbour by breakwater at Boulogne also one sea plane. No activity or vessels in Dieppe Harbour. Very efficient boom to this harbour formed by two 3000 ton tramp steamers. No shipping of any kind and no activity in Calais Harbour. No A.A. fire encountered and no E.A. seen. (Chatham A.C.H.Q., 1753/2)

Summary of Air reconnaissance 1/8:-

Nantes	8 Merchant vessels 16 Barges and small craft.
Le Pellerin	At entrance to canal 25 barges apparently empty.
St. Nazaire	3 merchant vessels and 1 large tanker. Few small craft in docks.
Lorient	No change
Brest	No change

(D.D.I.C., 1822/2)

Shipping

M.T.Convoy

If ships for Tyne have not yet left M.T. Convoy order them to keep outside 20 fathom line until further orders. (C. in C., Rosyth, 0148/2)

Convoy O.B. 191

Convoy scattered position 55° 19' N 17° 13' W., (CITY OF NEWCASTLE 0248/2) (This was convoy O B 191 attacked by submarine and 3 ships torpedoed)

Convoy W.S.2.

Date of sailing from Clyde and Liverpool and route. Escort for Liverpool position HAVELOCK, HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER, HURRICANE. (C. in C., W.A. 1521/2)

C.W. & C.E. Convoys

Ministry of shipping are making detailed arrangements for allocation of coasters for trading to South Coast ports in C.W. and C.E. Convoys, but to make their arrangements workable it is most desirable to clear surplus shipping from English Channel Ports. Details (A.C.N.S. (T) 1921/2)

War Diary

2.8.1940.
Friday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

OSWALD

Italians announced 2/8 that destroyer VIVALDI has sunk OSWALD, 10 miles S.E. Cape Spartivento at 2315/1 and picked up 52 survivors. (Router, V.A.Malta 1403/2)

SS AUDACITY

Broken down in 50° 22' N., 3° 9' W., SS ACTIVITY and AMETHYST standing by. Tug being sent from Dartmouth (C. in C., W.A. 0126/2 to VANSITTART)

CITY OF CANBERRA
(Mined 1/2)

At anchor damaged in 52° 3' N., 1° 30' E.,

CITY OF BRISBANE

Aground in 51° 33' N., 1° 20' E., (South Long Sand)

If available request fighter protection when enemy raids approach. (C. in C., Nore, 0433/2 to A.O.C., in C., F.C.)

CITY OF PERTH
Overdue 1/8

Now arrived Penang (S.O. (1) Singapore 0437Z/2)

WHITSHED
(Mined 31/7)

"CLOAK"

Leaves Harwich 0630/3 attented by MALLARD and tug KROOMAN and proceeds with FS 39 (C. in C., Nore 1840/2) Request fighter protection from 0630. (C. in C., Nore 1920/2) Code word CLOAK (D.C. 2356/2)

SS CHAMA
Overdue

Curacao requested S.S. CHAMA sailed Curacao 26th July Freetown be recalled owing to order being cancelled. G.B.M.S. made for 24 hours on 30th July ship not yet arrived Curacao. (S.O. (1) Kingston, Jamaica 1215/2)

EMBRACE

Drifter EMBRACE grounded at Port ZA yesterday 2nd August and will probably become a total loss.
Request another Drifter may be sent to replace her. Board of Enquiry is being held and a written report will be forwarded.
(R.A.M.L. 1030/3)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.8.1940
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Rosyth Escort Force	Suggesting that 4 more sloops be attached in addition to those asked for in hin 1747/27)
7 knot Ships	Concur with C. in C., Rosyth 1747/27. (C. in C., Nore, 1403/28)
F.S. Convoys	Protection of F.S. Convoy wessels,lying outside harbour. Your 1115/B. Regret no A/S vessels can be spared at present. (D. A/S W. 1322/28 to C. in C., Rosyth)
Convoys O.A. 221.	SNAPPER joining S.O. close escort CLEMATIS (C. in C., Rosyth 1737/28) Position (JASON 2330/28)
H.X. 73 A	Escort arrangements (C. in C., Rosyth 1932/28
O.A. 221	List (N.C.S.O. Methil 0810/28)
F.S. 94	Ships in F.S. 94 for Tees and Hartlepool (Closed) to be sent into Tyne. (C. in C., Rosyth 1820/28)
M.V's.	Amending 1605/28. M.V's sailing Falmouth for Irish Sea and Portsmouth for Dartmouth (C. in C., W.A., 1845/28)
H.X. 74	Amend meet (C. in C., W.A., 1330/28)
S.L. 49	Route and escort (D.T.D. 1745/28) Sailing telegram (D.T.D. 1855/28)
S.L. 50	R.V. (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1205/28) Advance sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1501/2)
S.C. 7.	Route (D.T.D. 1319/28)
O.B. 223	Route (D.T.D. 1534/28)
S.L. 48	Destinations (D.T.D. 2122/28)
Closed Area	Ships should be recouted clear of area as follows between 1945/30 and 1135/1/10 (C. in C., W.A., 1240/28)
Darkening Ship	Importance of (D.T.D. 1324/28)

/Rosyth.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Force H. A.804, 2/8. Both Sunderlands left 0010/2. (200 group to Force H., VALIANT, and F.O.C.H.A., 0010/2)

Force H, sailing from Gibraltar. My 1926/30. S.O. Force H. requested to report as soon as W/T silence can be broken intended date and time of sailing from Gibraltar. On passage to U.K., Force should search as large an area as possible with object of intercepting vessels attempting to evade the blockade for which orders are contained in F.O.C.H.P.'s 1400/28. (D.O.D. (H), 2256/2).

South Atlantic

French F/B Governor, Bathurst, reports large multi-engined flying boat with French colours on rudder flying N.W. at relative slow speed about 3,000 ft. was visible approx. 5 miles E. of Bathurst from 1805 to 1815 G.M.T. 31/7. (C.in C.S.A., 1002/2)

Convoy W.S.2. Admty. 1058/1. Request necessity for strictest economy in water be impressed on masters of all ships in W.S.2 as only barest necessities can be met at Freetown. (C.in C.S.A., 1030/2)

Belgian Cadets. Request from Belgians via Consul-General, Leopoldville, if use can be found for cadets of training ship MERCATOR as Merchant Marine officers in S. African waters. (N.O.I.C., Simonstown, 1055/2)

DRAGON orders to leave Lagos for Lobito, Annabon Island being investigated without landing on passage, afterwards to R.V. with HERMES and Convoy R.S.5. (C. in C.S.A., 1232/2)

Unknown Tanker My 0809/25/7. N.C.S.O., Magallanes now confirm that unknown tanker passed eastwards to west by north on 22/7. No other information. (S.O.I., Freetown, 1819/2).

Mediterranean

ROYAL SOVEREIGN your 1307/31, re ammunition, etc., approved. (A.C.N.S.(F), to C. in C., Med., 0028/2)

ENTERPRISE, H. Daladier. Proceed to Gibraltar, passing west of Balearic Islands. (F.O., Force H., to ENTERPRISE, 0955/2)

Operation "HURRY" Hurricanes party arrived. Regret one Hurricane crashed. Now we can get on with the work. Thank you. (F.O.C., Malta, to Force H, 0955/2). Re further consignments of Hurricanes (D.N.A.D. to C. in C. Med. 1729/2) (See Mediterranean Volume).

Hurry operation successful. One Hurricane crashed during landing approach, aircraft written off. Nothing further to report. (Governor Malta, to W.O., 2000/2)

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (ctd.)

ILLUSTRIOUS re R.D.F. fitted in ILLUSTRIOUS, and fighter directing system suggested. (D.N.A.D., to C.in C., Med., 1242/2)

HERMIONI My 1535/30. May be some difficulty over sinking of HERMIONI. In circumstances and situation, consider C.O. acted correctly, but there may well be grounds for protest by Greek Govt. (C.in C., Med., to Admty., 1359/2).

OSWALD, Sunk. Italian news announces sinking of OSWALD, 52 of crew, including Lt.Com. Fraser, reported saved. Italian enemy report was intercepted at 0930/2 giving position of British submarine as 10 miles S.E. of Cape Spartivento at 2315/1. This information was broadcast to OSWALD. Position of OSWALD probably originally discovered by D/F of her 1230/1. (V.A., Malta, 1403/2).

Beirut, Ships detained. Consul-General, Beirut, reports crew of 3 British ships detained there have been interned in retaliation for alleged internment of two French Admirals. Request facts as regards French Admirals may be communicated. Ships also been requisitioned in retaliation for our requisitioning of French ships. (C. in C., Med., 1703/2).

RORQUAL, Minelaying Orders to RORQUAL for mines to be laid from approx. position 255° Tolmeita Light 16.5 miles in 320° direction, and for Operation B.S.2 (details). (Capt. S.1, 1725/2).

Alexandria Loop Indicator loop system is now working. (R.A., Alexandria, 1910/2)

Operation "Hats" Your 1529/2 (see Mediterranean Volume) My 1820/1 was intended for your information only and the nature of any subsidiary operation you may wish to combine with "Hats" is entirely at your discretion. (D.O.D.(P) to C. in C., Med. 1952/2)

Malta, Stocks. Certain army and civil stocks below six months' consumption. Essential that all services have common reserve policy, and recommend six months' consumption as minimum figure wherever possible. Recommend also that convoys be run at least every two months. This policy would require immediate shipment of supplies to increase reserves to eight months' stock, reserves falling to six months between convoys. Request your concurrence. (V.A., Malta, to C.in C., Med. 2125/2)

Dodecanese Command. Naval Secretary to Ministry of Defence states that Italian O.C. Dodecanese has been relieved owing to lack of activity and initiative of ships in his command. (N.A. Angora 1155/2)

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (Ctd.)

Operation HURRY

Operation HURRY carried out according to plan.

2. Italian Air Reconnaissance met at 0645/1 in 037°19' N., 001°23' E., and shadowing started soon after. Skuas unable to intercept.

3. Force H bombed from 1815 to 1830 in 037°34' N 4°10' E., by 16 Savoia 79. High level 12 to 14 thousand feet. Enemy evidently put off by A.A. Fire. Several sheared off and bombing accuracy below last occasion. One Savoia shot down by Skuas, one appeared hit by A.A. Fire. No hits or casualties in Force H.

4. Attack on Cagliari Aerodrome successful. Direct hits on four hangers, two burning fiercely. Four aircraft in open destroyed in addition to anything in hangers. Many aerodrome buildings destroyed or badly damaged and small fires started Three Cucumbers laid in boom entrance outer harbour. Heavy A/A fire experience.

5. One Swordfish crashed on taking off. Crew not saved one Swordfish Force landed at Elm fate of crew unknown. One Cant shot down by Skuas.

6. One U-Boat sighted on the surface 060°38' N., 7°E., 25 course 200° 0630/2. Sighting aircraft had no bombs left.

7. Hurricanes flown off from 037°45' N., 007° 20'E. Sunderlands did not connect before flying off.

8. Air reconnaissance carried out at dawn 2/8 to 010°E. failed to locate surface force referred to in OSWALD's 1230/1.

9. Wind and weather conditions generally favourable for operation with convenient change from east to west when required.

10. ENTERPRISE detached for (? air defence) and to intercept as ordered in your 1938/1. ARETHUSA also detached A.M./2 and air reconnaissance carried out to cover later sailing of French ship.

11. One shadowing Cant shot down in flames by Skuas, p.m./2.

12. Reference 5 believe crew that forced landed are safe. (F.O.Force H. 2146/2 to Adty.)

East Indies

Convoys

War Office 77899, 1/8. Am very averse to delay still further sailing of B.N.3 from Bombay (reasons). It is not intended these troop ships should enter Aden. From little information I

MOST SECRET.

2.8.1940.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Air Co-Operation, Kismayu.

A.450 2nd August. Following reply sent to C.in C. E.I. 1246/29 which was repeated to you (Begins). A.422 31/8. Your 1246/29. (para.1) I am unable to provide fighter defence and air spotting. Distance to Kismayu from aerodrome in Kenya is too great for fighters to operate effectively. My (? 308) commenced Crews are not trained in fleet spotting. (para.2) C.in C. Mid.-East agrees that bombardment is not likely either to prejudice spotting assistance of future land operations at Kismayu or to lead to retaliation by air attack on Mombasa. (Ends)
(H.Q. Middle East 1039/2 to Adty).

Troop Convoys.

W.O. telegram 77899 and my 2312/17. Military situation in the Middle East has again been under review and as a preliminary step to deal with passage of the first echelon of NIBLICK Admiralty have agreed to the sailing of the ships concerned on 16th August so as to overtake B.N.3. before the latter reaches Aden, the departure of N.B.3. from Bombay being slightly postponed if necessary.
It is hoped that the progress of R.S.5. will allow it to join the convoy before entering the area of possible enemy air attack.
Above is subject to your remarks as to the practicability of the proposal, observing that the urgency of reinforcing Egypt justifies the acceptance of risks which would not normally be taken.
If you cannot provide ocean escort from Bombay for the first echelon of NIBLICK, you should retain KENT for the purpose.
A further signal of military convoy policy will follow.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 1855/2 to C.in C. E.I.)

MOST SECRET

2.8.1940.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Troop Convoys

W.O. telegram 77899 and my 2312/17. Military situation in the Middle East has again been under review and as a preliminary step to deal with passage of the first echelon of NIBLICK, admiralty have agreed to the sailing of the ships concerned on 16th August so as to overtake B.N. 3. before the latter reaches Aden, the departure of B.N.3 from Bombay being slightly postponed if necessary. It is hoped that the progress of R.S. 5 will allow it to join the convoy before entering the area of possible enemy air attack. Above is subject to your remarks as to the practicability of the proposal, observing that the urgency of reinforcing Egypt justifies the acceptance of risks which would not normally be taken. If you cannot provide ocean escort from Bombay for the first echelon of NIBLICK, you you should retain KENT for the pupose. A further signal of military convoy policy will follow. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1855/2 to C. in C., E.I.)

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Convoys (Ctd.) have of R.8.5, see no possibility of it joining B.N.3. After B.N.3 (as indicated my 1426/12/7), I intend to run convoys as nearly as possible on a 15-day cycle from Aden, and unless the sailing of troop ships from distant ports is adjusted to suit this cycle it will be impossible to arrange escort or for anyone to work to a plan. Too many variable factors to allow cycle to be altered continually for benefit of one service or one particular need. Wrong in principle to mix in convoy fast troop ships with slow supply ships, but this can only be overcome by provision of more escorts which I realise are not available. (C. in C., E.I., 1306Z/2 to Admty.)

Red Sea Targets — C. in C.E.I. 1816/1. From reports received it is agreed that value of targets in Red Sea does not warrant bombardment by ROYAL SOVEREIGN. Subject to discretion of C. in C.E.I., and air co-operation which can be made available, a certain place may be bombarded by ROYAL SOVEREIGN on passage to Durban. Admiralty has no objection to amended proposals regarding ammunition. (D.O.D.(F) to C. in C., Med., etc. 1340/2). M.O.M.E.1039/2 see Operations Volume.

AGRA — Informing C. in C.E.I., re his 0314Z/1, that Swedish ship AGRA sailed from Freetown for Japan on 27/6, maximum speed 12½ knots. (D.D.I.C., 1739/2)

Convoy W.S.A.I. — Details and route. Escort ANTENOR and HECTOR (S.C.S.O. Colombo, 1140Z/2)

China

Canton Gunboats — Your 0527/1. After consulting Consul-General, consider it desirable to remain at Canton as long as possible. (S.N.O., Canton, to C.In C., China, 0401Z/2)

America and West Indies

Troop Convoys — No reply having been received to his 1006/1 and previous signals, asking whether troop movement Canada to U.K. is cancelled or postponed. Early decision essential. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1317/2)

My 1317. Military request troops embark in DUCHESS OF RICHMOND, (?) Montreal 6/8 proceed Botwood, Newfoundland, to disembark troops and embark Black Watch Regt. If T.C.7 sails mid-August DUCHESS of RICHMOND proceeds Halifax. If T.C.7 cancelled or delayed, DUCHESS OF RICHMOND proceeds Montreal. An escort of one destroyer conditionally provided for her from Lower St. Lawrence. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa 1701/2).

War Diary

2.8.40
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies(Ctd.)

Estonian ships.

Admty. 2337/29 and my 1109/31. Estonian UBARI now ready to sail Halifax ostensibly for Dublin. Canadian Govt. assumed authority to requisition foreign ships in Canadian ports, and has considered this as an expedient to prevent Estonian ships being lost to Allies through intimidation. This action not taken pending lead from U.K. Govt. in order not to prejudice Anglo-Russian relations. Request views. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1551/2)

War Diary

2.8.40
Friday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

NORDMEER — Sailed about 2300 last night 1/8. Ship is very slow. (Consul, Vigo, L930/2). Informing C. in C.W.A., (D.D.I.C., 1147/2) my 0930. C.2 report, NORDMEER left by north entrance midnight at 5 knots going north. Local rumours state bound for Bordeaux. (Consul, Vigo, 1213/2.)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

MONFIORE — (At New Orleans). Discharging cargo of Scrap iron into Greek MEMAS for a Japanese port. (N.C.S.O., ? 1636 /31, recd. 0320/2.)

FRANCO MARTELLI — At Pernambuco with 10,000 tons fuel oil, capable of sailing at short notice. (N.A., Rio de Janeiro, 1705/2.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

SAUMUR — 2955tons, detained at Gibraltar (D.S.

War Diary

2.8.40
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked.

STRINDA — Norwegian 10973 tons, torpedoed 0120/2, 55°10' N., 17°16' W., 270°. Bloody Foreland, 307' (Niton Radio, 0120/2) In outward convoy O.B.191.

LUCERNA — British, 6556 tons, torpedoed 0332/2, 55°10' N., 17°15' W., 270°., Bloody Foreland, 307'. (Valencia Radio, 0332/2). In outward convoy O.B.191.

ALEXIA. — British, 8016 tons, torpedoed 55°19' N., 17°13' W. (Unknown station 0237/2) Correct position, 55°00' N., 15°50' W., ALEXIA torpedoed 0255/2 (Valentia Radio, no T.O.O./2 unknown station, 0257/2). Following read, ALEXIA being shelled by submarine (Lyness, 0431/2). ALEXIA torpedoed abreast mainmast, able to steam, no casualties. (WALKER, 0640/2). In outward convoy O.B.191.

LUCERNA and STRINDA afloat and able to steam. Am collecting ships together. All 3 ships badly holed amidships but should make harbourwithout tugs in present weather. Torpedo of non-magnetic type with unusually small destructive effect. (WALKER, 0755/2) Am escorting LUCERNA, ALEXIA and STRINDA, position, course and speed, 55°31' N 17°07' W., 105°., 7 knots. (WALKER, 0924/2) Tugs ENGLISHMAN and SCHELDE to assist ships proceeding Clyde from position 55°10' N., 17°16' W. escorted by ROCHESTER. Trawler ANGLE to escort tugs. (C. in C.W.A., 1049/2). ROCHESTER take over STRINDA, ALEXIA and LUCERNA from WALKER and escort to Clyde. WALKER join S.L.40 B. (C. in C. W.A., 1051/2) Sailed rescue tug SALVONIA 14 knots for 55°10' N., 17°16' W., (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 1225/2). Tug ENGLISHMAN, escorted by ANGLE, sailed (N.O.I.C.Greenock, 1720/2)

Submarines Reported

North Minch — BEDOUIN and PUNJABI to carry out A/S search in North Minch from 1400 today, then join Convoy W.N.4, etc. (R.A.D., H.F., 0040/2)

2010/1 — U-boat 3 miles off Carrigan Head, Donegal Bay, course N.W., at 2010/1. (C.in C.W.A., 0116/2)

0220 — Enemy s/m 55°10' N., 17°16' W., reliable fix, at 0220. WALKER to attack. (C. in C.W.A.0257/2)

0330 — ROCHESTER to join WALKER hunting U/B. LUCERNA and ALEXIA torpedoed in approx. same position as STRINDA at about 0330. (C. in C.W.A., 0356/2)

0835 — Probably enemy s/m passed me at great distance south bound in position 56°13' N., 2°18' E. Visibility 10 miles. (Netherlands S/M 022, 0835/2)

War Diary

2.8.40
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked.

STRINDA — Norwegian 10973 tons, torpedoed 0120/2, 55°10' N., 17°16' W., 270°. Bloody Foreland, 307' (Niton Radio, 0120/2) In outward convoy O.B.191.

LUCERNA — British, 6556 tons, torpedoed 0332/2, 55°10' N., 17°15' W., 270°., Bloody Foreland, 307'. (Valencia Radio, 0332/2). In outward convoy O.B.191.

ALEXIA. — British, 8016 tons, torpedoed 55°19' N., 17°13' W. (Unknown station 0237/2) Correct position, 55°00' N., 15°50' W., ALEXIA torpedoed 0255/2 (Valentia Radio, no T.O.O./2 unknown station, 0257/2). Following read, ALEXIA being shelled by submarine (Lyness, 0431/2). ALEXIA torpedoed abreast mainmast, able to steam, no casualties. (WALKER, 0640/2). In outward convoy O.B.191.

LUCERNA and STRINDA afloat and able to steam. Am collecting ships together. All 3 ships badly holed amidships but should make harbourwithout tugs in present weather. Torpedo of non-magnetic type with unusually small destructive effect. (WALKER, 0755/2) Am escorting LUCERNA, ALEXIA and STRINDA, position, course and speed, 55°31' N 17°07' W., 105°., 7 knots. (WALKER, 0924/2) Tugs ENGLISHMAN and SCHELDE to assist ships proceeding Clyde from position 55°10' N., 17°16' W. escorted by ROCHESTER. Trawler ANGLE to escort tugs. (C. in C.W.A., 1049/2). ROCHESTER take over STRINDA, ALEXIA and LUCERNA from WALKER and escort to Clyde. WALKER join S.L.40 B. (C. in C. W.A., 1051/2) Sailed rescue tug SALVONIA 14 knots for 55°10' N., 17°16' W., (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 1225/2). Tug ENGLISHMAN, escorted by ANGLE, sailed (N.O.I.C.Greenock, 1720/2)

Submarines Reported

North Minch — BEDOUIN and PUNJABI to carry out A/S search in North Minch from 1400 today, then join Convoy W.N.4, etc. (R.A.D., H.F., 0040/2)

2010/1 — U-boat 3 miles off Carrigan Head, Donegal Bay, course N.W., at 2010/1. (C.in C.W.A., 0116/2)

0220 — Enemy s/m 55°10' N., 17°16' W., reliable fix, at 0220. WALKER to attack. (C. in C.W.A.0257/2)

0330 — ROCHESTER to join WALKER hunting U/B. LUCERNA and ALEXIA torpedoed in approx. same position as STRINDA at about 0330. (C. in C.W.A., 0356/2)

0835 — Probably enemy s/m passed me at great distance south bound in position 56°13' N., 2°18' E. Visibility 10 miles. (Netherlands S/M 022, 0835/2)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported (Ctd.)

1153 — Position 55°37' N., 8°48' W., course 180, speed 5 knots, 1 enemy submarine. (A/C 224 Sqdn., 1153/2) GLEANER and HURRICANE ordered to attack. (C. in C.W.A., 1243/2), 1246/2)

0900 — CANADIAN MONARCH signalled to a/c at 1035 that she had sighted a s/m in position 55°04' N., 17°50' W., at 0900. A/C proceeded to this spot and later found WALKER and ROCHESTER with three torpedoed tankers. (Donibristle, 1900/2)

1945 — One enemy s/m submerged bearing 270, distance 3 miles, course 360. My position 57°20' N., 2°41' E. (A/C, 224 Sqdn., 1945/2)

2213-2235 — D/F bearings indicate enemy unit, probably U-boat, in Cape Verde Islands area. (D.D.I.C., 0906/3)

1130 — In River Shannon. Shore report (C.4.) (D.5.)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

No news of the U/B thought to be moving north from Madeira area.

2 in Western Approaches or farther South.

3 in N.W. Approaches.

No news of the U/B thought possibly to have been in Faroes area.

Possibly 1 small U/B outward bound between Orkneys and Fair Island. (D.D.I.C. 1317/2)

Submarines Attacked.

1408 — Have attacked enemy submarine submerged with bombs dive, estimated no hits, position 56°06' N., 2°40' E., (A/C, 220 Sqdn., 1408/2). Two 250-lb. bombs dropped, fell about 70 yards ahead on track of submarine taken from point where periscope last seen. Third bomb 250-lb. fell 100 yards beyond first salvo. No visible effect. (Donibristle, 1835/2).

1153 — S/M sighted in 55°37' N., 8°48' W., on course 180°. 5 knots at periscope depth. Five 100-lb. bombs dropped in first attack, fell 50 yards ahead of where periscope disappeared. Second attack one minute later, five 100-lb. bombs dropped 150 yards ahead. Position searched for 1 hour 20 minutes, nothing further seen. (Donibristle, 1600/2) Informing GLEANER and HURRICANE (C. in C.W.A., 1741/2) Correction after return of a/c to Leuchars from Prestwick. Four 250-lb. bombs carried, two of which were dropped in each attack. Considered certain that considerable damage must have been sustained by S/M, as bomb aimer's impression was that first two

/bombs

War Diary

2.8.40
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines attacked.

1153 (Ctd.) bombs straddled what must have been its submerged position. On approaching for second attack, 1½ minutes later, surface of sea was greatly disturbed as though S/M was "thrashing" beneath the surface. (Donibristle, 1930/2)

1631 Unsuccessful attack with 2 torpedoes in position 56°15' N., 2°35' E., course and speed of enemy 340, 14. Visibility 12 miles. (Netherlands S/M O.22, 1631/2)

1840. Attacked enemy U/B with bombs level, estimate no hits, position 56°46' N., 2°12' E., (A/C, 224 Sqdn., 1840/2) Position 56° N., 3°E. (A/C, 224 Sqdn., 1944/2)

War Diary

3.8.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Dutch Naval Ships — Information requested as to what ships of Imperial Dutch Navy are to be based at Holy Head. STRUYVASENT has arrived from Falmouth without notice and understand, more ships are being sent. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1529/3 to Adty.)

Defence of U.K.

Dover Balloon Barrage — Balloon Barrage at Dover has now been increased to include water borne sites flying from buoys or barges within the harbour. (H.Q.F.C., 1700/3)

(For reference) (Signal also gives details of patrols)

Humber Force. AURORA, JAVELIN, JAGUAR GALATEA, EXPRESS, KELVIN. INTREPID, JUPITER, ICARUS, IMPULSIVE, ESK.

Harwich Force CARDIFF, WIVERN, VERITY, WILD SWAN, VENOMOUS, SHELDRAKE, PUFFIN, SHEARWATER.

Sheerness Force BIRMINGHAM, SOUTHAMPTON, CAMPBELL, VIVACIOUS, VERSATILE, VENETIA, VESPER.

WINDSOR, VIMY.

(C. in C., Nore, 0800/3)

N.L.O's — In order to ensure co-operation between Army Units ashore and Naval vessels operating close in, 13 Naval Liaison Officers are serving with Eastern Command allocated to Military units operating up the coast in the area from the Wash to Bognor. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1055/3)

Patrols — In view of Minesweeping Programme Patrol O tonight Saturday is cancelled. Six destroyers will probably be required for Patrol T tomorrow night Sunday. Further signal will be made. (C. in C., Nore, 1126/3)

Dover Patrol — For night of 3/4 August. (V.A.Dover 1732/3 to Adty.)

/Shetlands.....

War Diary

3.8.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K., Contd.

Shetlands — F.O.C.S. 1921/23 to Adty. Entitlement of Ammunition for Sullum Voe and Sumburgh Aerodromes will be maintained, but during present shortage cannot be increased beyond that. (Air Ministry 1608/2) (D. of L.D. 2208/3 to F.O.C.S.)

Parachute Minelaying East of Inchkeith — Request reply to my 1035/30/7. Request also permission to fly Kites from A/S Trawlers on May Island Loop Patrol to maximum height of 1500 feet. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1920/3 to Adty.)

Movements.

CANTON — Delayed by fog outside Cumbrae (CANTON 0827/3).

Fog at Scapa — Visibility at Scapa ½ cable (C. in C., H.F. 0923/3) Visibility now one mile (C. in C., H.F. 1345/3)

Nore Command — Day Patrols and expected movements to 1200/4. (C. in C., Nore, 1200/3)

Patrol J.C. East — Ships detailed for tonight. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1634/3 to Adty.)

Submarines — At 0600/4, Area A. (V.A.S. 1708/3) Area B. (V.A.S. 1706/3)

Nore M.T.B's and M.A/S.B's — Available night 3/4 at Harwich, Yarmouth, and on patrol (C. in C., Nore, 1940/3 to Adty.)

Rosyth — Command State 3/S. (C. in C., Rosyth 2000/3)

Operations

Re Adty., 1933/2 — C. in C., H.F. 1225/3. See Operations Volume.

Operation P.K. — To destroy enemy surface minelayers in Gap E, all available 60 foot M.T.B's to leave Harwich, proceed to Aldeburgh Light Float by 2300/3 and sweep gap, returning to Base after dawn. Report M.T.B's detailed and proposed time of sailing. (C. in C., Nore, 1246/3 to S.O.M.B's Felixtowe) (R.A.S. 1636/3)

/Sweep.....

War Diary

3.8.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations, Contd.

Sweep off French Coast

To counter enemy Minesweeping reported in V.A.Dover's 1817/1 it has been decided to attack his minesweepers by surface forces and then to mine the waters in which the minesweepers may be found. Request you discuss with V.A.Dover and forward proposals for a sweep by Destroyers and M.T.B's from Gavelines to Boulogne about 3 miles off coast during darkness. (A.C.N.S. M. 1603/3 to C. in C., Nore.)

Operation F.H.

Will not take place to-night. (R.A.S. 1636/3)

Iceland

Six Battle and two Sunderland aircraft leave Wick 1030/4 for Iceland. (C. in C., Rosyth 2050/3)

E-Boats

Interception Patrols

Available M.T.B's of 4th M.T.B. Flotilla to sail from Harwich to reach Thornton Ridge Light Buoy by 2330/4. Patrol between 51° 23' N., and 51° 30' N., on silent engines, leaving patrol at 0245/5 for Harwich. (C. in C., Nore 2006/3 to D.20)

Three motor A/S boats to proceed forthwith to patrol near Smith's Knoll Light Float to intercept E-Boat. (C. in C., Nore, 2110/3 to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth)

Boulogne

P.R.U. Sortie 1700/3 shows three E-Boats in Bassin Loubet. (P.R.U. 2341/3)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.8.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Your 1933/2. Known outside committments for H.F. Destroyers are particularly heavy between 7/8 and 11/8. Of those remaining DUNCAN will be working up also KEPPEL and four 'A' Class a e in urgent need of practices. Excluding these there will remain sufficient screen for only one unit of capital ships.

Propose to review the situation in a weeks time in regard to a detachment to A.C.W.A. I would like however to stress the rival importance of maintaining A/S hunting groups with air co-operation in the Cape Wrath and Shetland areas including Moray Firth which are profitable for any Home Fleet Destroyers surplus to immediate screening requirements. (C.in C. H.F. 1225/3 to Adty).

To counter the enemy's minesweeping operations reported in V.A. Dover's 1817/1 it has been decided first to attack his minesweepers by surface forces and then to mine the waters in which they were found.

For this purpose, it is proposed that a mixed force of destroyers and M.T.B's should make the No.1. Calais Buoy about 1½ hours after dark.

The destroyers should then sweep to the southward keeping three miles off the French coast as far as Boulogne thence returning to the English Coast.

The M.T.B's at the same time should sweep North two miles off the enemy coast as far as Gravelines thence withdrawing to the North West.

It is suggested that the first operation of this nature should be carried out by 4 destroyers and 4 M.T.B's or M.A/S.Bs. and that the operation should be repeated but each time in greater strength as the enemy may be expected to support his minesweepers after our first raid.

On account of the distance from Portsmouth destroyers must come from the Nore Command. Request you will discuss this matter with V.A. Dover and forward proposals for a series of operations on the above lines.

/It is

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.8.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. Mining. (Contd.)

It is intended to ask the Air Ministry to undertake the subsequent minelaying if the operations by surface craft are successful. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1603/3/8).

FOREIGN STATIONS.
East Indies.

My 1816/1. (1) A.O.C.M.E. informs me fighter protection and air spotting cannot be provided off Kismayu. He and C.in C. M.E. agree bombardment not likely to prejudice future land operations or cause retaliation on Mombasa.

(ii) When COLOMBO reconnoitred Kismayu 22/7 low level bombing attack was made on her six hours after ship was observed from the shore. six bombs fell close to ship. More splashed further away seen but aircraft causing these not observed due to low clouds.

(iii) Enemy air attack could probably be successfully countered by ships own A.A. defence and by timing of bombardment shortly before sunset on a day when moon-rise is some hours later. This would mean firing into the sun at objectives which are known from recent observation to be very difficult to discern in normal light. Air spotting therefore seems essential for effective fire. (C.in C. E.I. 1236Z/3 to Adty).

6.8.1940.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

Dover 14" Gun.

Ready from 8th August. Request proposals for spotting A/C and Fighter Escort. (D.T.S.D. 1639/6 to Air Ministry).

CACU Detling are providing A/C spotting. You should provide Fighter Escort for spotting A/C on request by Coastal Command. (Air Ministry 1200/7 to Fighter Command).

War Diary

3.8.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Air-British Air Activity

Texel, Rotterdam. — Aircraft reports large fire off Texel visible 50 miles. Large fire near Rotterdam visible 30 miles (A.C.H.Q., Chatham, 0730/3)

Duties Postponed (? Fog) — L.S. and escorts for H.N.1, W.N. 4, and H.X. 59 A., postponed. W.1. cancelled. (C. in C., Rosyth 0836/3)

Heavy ships to be Attacked — X573. Reference GNEISENAU and other important Naval units at Kiel. Request you arrange attacks similar to those directed against SCHARNHORST when favourable conditions permit. Heavy attack should also be delivered on BISMARK fitting out at Hamburg as soon as practicable. (Air Min. 1045/3 to C. in C., B.C.)

Emden — Shipping and barges to be attacked night 3/4 Aug. (H.Q.C.C. 1310/3) Results not observed (Chatham A.C.H.Q., 1525/4, 1630/4)

Danish Coast — 3 aircraft to patrol on 7° 30' E., between 56° and 54° 30' N., once every 48 hours to harass enemy shipping. (H.Q.C.C. 1605/3 to Adty.)

North Sea — 6 Blenheim aircraft from Lossiemouth will R/C daily over sea area stated (Donibristle 1740/3)

Air Searches — For tomorrow 4th. (C. in C., Rosyth 2050/3)

/Enemy Air Activity.....

War Diary

3.8.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Air- Enemy Air Activity

Attacks on Orkneys — Air attack developing 2347 (Donibristle 0056/3)

A number of aircraft 6 to 12 approached Orkneys from Northward in fog. Red warning given at 2358. About 12 bombs dropped near Stromness, Burray South Ronaldsay North of Hoy and on South Walls. No searchlights exposed or fighters up due to visibility. No damage yet reported. All clear given at 0037. (A.C.O.S. 0056/3)

My 0056/3. Not more than 3 or 4 aircraft over Orkneys and only 3 bombs dropped all in Ronaldsay. No casualties or damage. (A.C.O.S. 1837/3)

SS STATIRA — British (4852 tons) in convoy, bombed, set on fire, sinking off Cape Wrath (ARAB 0127/3, A.C.O.S. 0206/3) Tug THAMES sailed to assist. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 0415/3) Arrived Stornoway still burning fiercely, in tow Dutch Tug THAMES. No casualties. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1744/3 to Admty.) Beached at Stornoway. (D.S. 334)

SS SCHALI — British (6309 tons) in the same convoy was hit by a bomb which failed to explode (T.D. via N.I.D. 19)

Unknown trawler attacked by aircraft about 30 miles off Bull Rock 0854/3 (reported by Valentia and Portishead 0859/3)

Convoys HOXSA and VALID — Air Attack is imminent. (Plymouth W/T 2310/3)

War Diary

3.8.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining.

Tay	Reports of possible minelaying off Tay by enemy aircraft 3/8, one LL Trawler to sail forthwith for Dundee (C. in C., Rosyth 0303/3 to N.O.I.C. Leith etc.,)
Rosyth	Enemy aircraft minelaying suspected Farne Is. area, also off Seaham. (C. in C., Rosyth 0310/3)
Operation D.B.K. 4.	Details (D.20 .0934/3) 20th D.F. sails from Humber a.m./4 for operation D.B.K.4 (C.in C.Nore 1700/3)
S.S.WYCHWOOD sunk in convoy H.B.32	British (2794 tons) mined in 53° N., 1°48'5' E. am standing by (MALLARD 1003 /3) Is assistance of tug required? (NOIC Harwich 1103/3) Sunk shipwash L.V. 325° 5.1 miles. Have taken off all crew, no serious casualties. m joining WHITSHED (MALLARD 1107 /3, 1130 /3) (VEGA 1655/3 to C. in C. Nore)
North Shields	Mine detonated 0947 (P.M.S.O. North Shields 1028/3)
East Coast Mine Barrier	Intend leave Humber at 1315/4 with 20th D.F. less IVANHOE for operation D.B.K.4. Request Air escort off Humber Light Vessel from 1345/4 till dark. (Capt.D.20.1706/3 to C. in C.Nore). 20th D.F. will leave position 2° E. of Aldeburgh L.V. at 2130/4, proceed to reach initial position at 0100/5, complete operation by 0200/5, and return Humber by same route passing Aldeburgh about 0430/5. (C. in C.Nore 2006/3 to D.20).
Plymouth	Since my 1436/30, three Red Mines detonated: one 4 cables 336° from Shagstone Beacon, one 2.7 cables 115° from E. end of Breakwater, and one 1.1 miles 188° from Coast Guard Rame Head. (C. in C.W.A.1443/3 to Adty.)
Swansea	Now open to all ships. (N.O.I.C.Cardiff 1630/3 to Adty.)
Portsmouth	2 Red Mines detonated by L.L. consecutive pulses at 50°39'33" N., 1°36'15" W. (C. in C.Portsmouth 1850/3)
Milford Haven	1 Red Mine exploded today in Suspected Area 110° St. Anne's Head 7½ cables. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1907/3)

War Diary

3.8.40
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining (Ctd.)

Harwich Area — Request Fighter protection for Fast Sweepers in Harwich Area tomorrow and following days. Code word SOLIO (C. in C. Nore 1920/3 to Adty.)

At 1618/3 one Floating Mine in 54°38' N., 4°9' E. A/C report. (ACHQ. Chatham 2025/3)

Invergordon — My 1805/2. One Magnetic Mine detonated today at 57°45'30" N., 3°33' W. and 2 parachutes recovered, one intact. Port remains closed. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon 2215 /3 to Adty.)

Enemy Intelligence

Helgoland Fiord — At 0030/3, riding lights of 12 to 14 medium to large vessels stationary in Fiord. A/C report. (H.Q.B.C.2013/3)

At 1448/3 in 53°29' N., 4°56' W. the M/V DA COSTA course 130° speed 5 knots. A/C report (Plymouth 1843/3)

Cherbourg — At 1137/3, a derelict lifeboat and 1 small vessel 80-feet long steering West. A/C report. (H.Q.B.C.0122/4)

Brest — PRU.Sortie at 1700/3 shows arrival of one steamer 300-feet. No other change. (PIU 0051/4 to N.I.D.)

Shipping

Convoy HX60 — MACKAY to meet. Escorts SANDWICH, ST. LAURENT, MACKAY, VANOC. Positions, route (A.C.W.A.0113/3) MALLOW, GLADIOLUS to patrol astern of convoy to keep down U-boats (C. in C.W.A.1318/3)

Operation "Accordion" — EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA to be prepared for service in lieu of OTRANTO. The drafts for Freetown (MONARCH OF BERMUDA, ASKA, ORION), troops and naval ratings for Bermuda and Jamaica via Halifax (ATHLONE CASTLE) (D.S.T.0130/3)

F.N.F.S. Convoys. — Route for Convoy F.N. 45 and F.S.41 and subsequent convoys Q.Z.S.148 until further orders (C. in C.Rosyth 0924/3)

F.N.Convoy — WESTON, WINCHESTER with F.N.Convoy are at present anchored near No.22 buoy (C. in C. Rosyth 1030/3) (?fog)

Convoy S.L.40 — Will be 2 hours early at R.V.(C.in C.W.A. 1106/3)

War Diary

3.8.40
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping (Ctd.)

W.S.2. — Liverpool portion cannot make R.V. (position) before (time) (F.O.I.C.Liverpool 1205/3) Alterations in ships included in convoy (D.O.D.(H) 1143/3)

HOWTH
HODDER — (To be sailed for St. Helens) Crews will not sail (V.A.Dover 1308/3)

Convoy situation — At 2000/3 (C. in C.W.A.1348/3)

Convoy H.G.39 — Must not arrive Bar Light Vessel till 0400/4. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1005/3 to SCARBOROUGH)

Coastal Convoys — Cancel my 1922/20/7. Following Timetable for F.N. and F.S. Convoys to be brought into force starting with F.N. 43 and F.S.41 (C. in C.Rosyth 1044/3 to Adty.)

Convoy OA.192 — My 0856/2. ST. LAURENT to patrol astern of convoy till 2359/3 and convoy to disperse at 1200/4 (C. in C.W.A.1316/3)

Convoy HX.60 — WINCHELSEA to join convoy at R/V and MACKAY at 0800/4. Both for B position. (C. in C.W.A.1316/3)

Convoy SL.40a. — ST. ROSARIO has 5 cases of Typhus, one critical. Have ordered her to Londonderry. My position, course,and speed. (ABERDEEN 1345/3 to C. in C.W.A.) Your 1641/2. GODETIA and PRIMROSE sailed 1000/3 (Western Isles 1440/3 to C. in C.W.A.)

Convoy W.S.2 — Route (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1526/3 to Adty.)

Convoy HX.59a — Pass Aberdeen southward 2100/3 (C. in C., Rosyth, 2118/3).

Convoy OA.193 — Passes Aberdeen Northward about 2130/3 (C. in C., Rosyth 2118/3) 8 knots 32 ships (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1236/3).

Convoy F.N.40 — Passes 20.C.Buoy northward 2045/3. (C. in C. Rosyth, 2118/3).

Convoy CE.8 — Anticipated that Channel Mobile Balloon craft will join convoy from Netley by 1800/4 (D. of L.D. 1552/3 to Air Min.)

Channel Mobile Balloon Barrage — My 1629/2. Expected that Craft will be moved from Netley about 1200/4 to join convoy CE.8 at St. Helens by 1800/4. (D. of L.D. 1552/to Air Min.)

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping (Contd.)

MAHOMED ALI EL KEBIR	Adty. 1055/26. Sail to R/V with GRIFFIN at 51°25' N., 4°30' W. at 0500/6. Thence route to Gibraltar. (C. in C., W.A. 1204/3 to N.O.I.C. Avonmouth).
Additional slow convoys	To be introduced every 8 days from Sydney C.B. to Clyde, and every 8 days as slow OA and OB convoys from Methil and Liverpool respectively. WN convoys will sail Clyde to Methil every 4 days. Programme and details. (C. in C., W.A. 2201/3).
Convoy HT.29	Sailed 1030/3. 9 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1131/3).

Miscellaneous

Harris-on-Uist Cable	Cable ship ARIEL ordered to repair this cable now awaiting escort at Castle Bay, Bawa. (Western Isles 1250/3 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

War Diary

3.8.40.
Saturday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

CITY OF CANBERRA	If convenient send one EAGLE class now to provide A/A Gun protection to S.S. CITY OF CANBERRA now aground Hollesley Bay to north eastward of Harwich. She is to proceed by the inshore route one EAGLE will be required in support till ship reaches Thames on Monday. (C. in C., Nore 1225/3 to S.O. Thames, L.D.F. etc.)
TELA	Dutch, Rosario 5/7 for Holyhead, overdue at Freetown since 26/7. Her owners have been informed that there is a rumour that her crew have been landed at ~~xxx~~ an unspecified port. (D.S. 333).
ROSS	British, 4978 tons, arrived Durban 3/8 after reported overdue. (D.S. 334).
ILVINGTON COURT	British, 5187 tons, five days overdue at Freetown from Cardiff (D.S. 334).
WILTSHIRE	Mined 31/7. Left Harwich am/3 for Chatham, escorted by MALLARD and one tug and air escort. (D.C.N.S. 3/8).

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

ARK ROYAL ENTERPRISE — Your 2026/3 Concur. (F.O.C.N.A. 2352/3 to F.O.H.) See Mediterranean.

South Atlantic

S.S. TOUAREG to be intercepted — V-C Duala reports French s/m No.82 arrived 1/8. French S.S. TOUAREG left Dakar 30/7 expect to arrive Duala 4/8 or 5/8 must be intercepted. Ends.
Have ordered BRIDGEWATER to intercept TOUAREG and send her to Lagos (C. in C. S.A. 0913/3 to Adty.)
Strong rumour TOUAREG carries nominee of Vichy Govt. including new Governor General and troops. Due Duala 5/8 or 6/8. De Gaulle party being quickly organised under good leadership. (V-C. Duala 2020/31/7 recd. Adty. 2304/3/8).
DRAGON to leave Lagos 3/8 to be in position to search for TOUAREG during daylight 4/8 and then comply with my 1232/2 (C. in C., S.A. 1020/3 to DRAGON). Request instructions in event of TOUAREG being intercepted by one of H.M. Ships (C. in C., S.A. 1218/3 to Adty.)
DRAGON left Lagos 1130/3 to search for TOUAREG (S.O.I. Freetown, 1753/3).

Convoy W.S.2. — Reply to S.N.O. Simonstown, 1208/2 (C. in C., S.A. 1212/3).

Mediterranean

Store Convoys — Your 1137/1, re ships for Egypt and Palestine with military and civil cargoes. Barker will be advised when convoys form at Aden. (D. of S.T., to C. in C., Med., 0017/3).

Bombardment — Your 1816/1, ammunition necessary for bombardment of certain place. Intend to comply as regards arrangements proposed. 5-inch equipments urgently required, request they may be returned from Aden. (C. in C., Med., to C. in C., E.I., 0031/3).

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (Contd.)

Force H, sailing from Gibraltar. Your 2256/2 (see N. Atlantic). Intend ARK ROYAL ENTERPRISE and if F.O.C.N.A. agrees 4 destroyers 13th D.F. shall accompany force as far as about 44° N. (F.O.C. Force H. 2026/3 to Adty.).

Time of sailing 2000/4 (F.O.C. Force H. 0547/3).

Aircraft for Malta H.Q. Malta's 1841/1 to Air Min. I support this proposal most strongly. Re air reconnaissance at disposal of C. in C., Med. (C. in C., Med. 1105/3 to Adty.).

Operation "Hats" Re diversions (F.O.C. Force H. 2057/3 to C. in C. Med.) See Mediterranean Volume.

My 0031/3. Cancel reference to 0.5-inch machine guns. In view of scale of air attack and expectation of dive bombing in Mediterranean I intend to remove these guns before sailing. (C. in C., Med., to C. in C., E.I., 0927/3).

VALIANT Adty. 1615/2. It was not intended VALIANT should enter Malta unless required to disembark stores for "Harry", but disembarkation of 3.7 and Bofors can be accepted provided it can be ensured that all loads can be handled by VALIANT's own appliances and all can be disembarked within 4 or 5 hours. (C. in C., Med., 0929/3 to Adty.)

Assessments of attacks on U-boats Intend (?to use) following letters for assessments of attacks on U-boats. A sunk B probably sunk C probably seriously damaged and had to return to (? base). D. possibly slightly damaged but remained on patrol. E rejected. (C. in C., Med., 2003/3).

East Indies

Convoy B.N.3 B.N.3, route from Bombay. Red sea R.V. will depend on speed of ships joining off Aden. (F.O.C., R.I.N., 0537Z/3). Re proposal to include "NIBLICK" in it (C. in C., E.I., 0830Z/3) Confirmed 15 ships will be required for "NIBLICK" (F.O.C., R.I.N., 1229Z/3 to C. in C., E.I.).

R.N. C'B.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies (Contd.)

A.M.Cs Adty. 1406/3, see China.

Kismayu Re his 1816/1. (C. in C., E.I., 1236Z/3). See operations Volume.

Berma Harbour R/c 3/8. 7 M.Vs, one flying boat, no warships (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1721/3).

Convoys Ref. Adty. 1855/2 my remarks are in my 1306/2. You should see G.O.C. in C.M.E. Q.M/15230 of 2/8 with which I fully concur. (C. in C., E.I., 0648Z/3. to Adty.)

Camel Corps Understand from War Office that shipping arrangements are required for movements India to Berbera of Camel Corps comprising approx. 500 men and equal number of camels, request report whether shipping is available and of proposed date of sailing. (D. of S.T. 2221/3 to P.S.T.O. Bombay).

Evacuation Middle East Your 1839/29/7 para (1) Concur in proposal to evacuate service families in B.S.3. 1 A.M.C. as ocean escort to India can probably be made available. (C. in C., E.I., 1936Z/3 to Adty.)

China

Patrols, A.M.Cs C. in C., China 0531/25 and 0845/25 and A.C.N.B. 0829/22. Reduction in patrols in Japanese and Chinese waters must be accepted. No objection to transfer of any of the three A.M.Cs to any other station. If this is confirmed by C. in C., China, and A.C.N.B., former is requested to select two most suitable for service indicated in para. 1 of my 1031/24 and to sail them in first instance for Freetown. In view of the new decision to reinforce East Indies Station by CALEDON and CAPETOWN from Mediterranean, and intention to station two 8-in. cruisers in East Indies in connection with Australian troop movements, C. in C., E.I. is requested to report whether he requires the service of the third A.M.C. If not, vessel will remain on China St ation. (A.C.N.S.(F) to C. in C., China and E.I., 1406/3). Adty. 1406/3, para 2 confirmed. No objection by Commonwealth Naval Board. (A.C.N.B., 1156/4/

War Diary

3.8.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

China (Contd.)

ILE DE FRANCE — Re employment. (C. in C., China, 0853Z/3).

America and West Indies

NEMAHA — My 1151/11. Ship sailed 31/7 for Sydney C.B. (S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica 0902/3).

DUCHESS OF YORK, ORONSAY, GEROIC, ANTHONIA, ATHLONE CASTLE, TC.7 Convoy. — Convoy comprising these ships with evacuee children, troops and naval ratings for Bermuda and Jamaica will leave Clyde (date) for Halifax arriving approx. (date). First 3 and PASTEUR will be used for T.C.7, proposed date of sailing, SCYTHIA could also be included in convoy if troops ready. (D. of S.T. 1253/3 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

Estonian Ships — Your 1551/2. Position is somewhat complicated. F.O. hope to give a definite lead in this matter in two or three days until then you should detain UBARI on some pretext but should not repetition not requisition her. (D.T.D. 1740/3 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

Australia

Convoy U.S.4. — Ships proposed and their carrying capacities. Approx. 6500 troops from Australia and up to 9000 from New Zealand. (D. of S.T. 1845/3 to A.C.N.B.).

DUCHESS OF RICHMOND, DUCHESS OF ATHOLL. — Movements. Will be available for T.C.7 (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1127/3). My 1127/3 C.P.R. propose to sail DUCHESS OF ATHOLL from Montreal 5/8 (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1201/3).

War Diary

3.8.40.
Saturday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

MARITZA, INGO, LUVSEE — Split report that MARITZA arrived Sibenik 1/8. INGO expected to leave Dubrovnik pm/5 with 5400 tons of Bauxite. LUVSEE due Split 3/8. (S.O.(I) Alexandria 0945/3, 1813/3 to Adty, C. in C., Med.)

ARKADIA — Due Istanbul probably 6/8 (Macrae, Salatzi, 1402/3).

NORDMEER — Tanker, from Vigo, proceeding Bordeaux. B.2 (N.A. Madrid, 1942/3).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

FRANCO MARTELLI — Following from N.A. Rio de Janiero begins:- Italian tanker FRANCO MARTELLI at Pernambuco with 10,000 tons of oil fuel is capable of sailing at short notice 1705/2 ends. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 0905/3 to Adty.)

War Diary 3.8.40. Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

ATOS	Swedish (2161 tons) left Glasgow 1500/2, torpedoed 0920/3 in 56° N. 7° W. Crew 22, 1 woman, 3 passengers. Icelandic trawler SKUTUUL arrived Fleetwood am/4 with 27 survivors, 1 of crew missing (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1430/4).
SIGYN	(Sunk 0103/4). Entire crew picket up by WARWICK, escorting HX.59. No further details yet known. (D.O.R., 3/8).
JERSEY CITY	(Torpedoed 31/7) 42 survivors in WALKER. (D.O.R. 3/8).

Submarines Reported

1300	By a/c, sighted at periscope depth, position 60°42' N., 4°30' E. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1454/3).
1830	By a/c 58°4' N., 1°16' E. course 010° 8 knots. (Donibristle, 2210/3).
2020	p/c suspected by a/c 55°40' N., 7°12' W. (C. in C., W.A., 2321/3) (A.C.H.Q. Plymouth, 2215/3).
about 1304	About 15 miles W. of Fiji Island (Norway) course 270° mag, at p/c level. (Donibristle 1505/3).
1900 G.M.T.	By HORSA 58°57' N., 5°51' W. (York 0526/4).
0810	A/c sighted U-boat diving, co. E., 53°40' N., 0°50 E., 082° Spurn Point 24'. (D.S. App., 334).
0943	Indefinite xx position, 30-50 miles S.W. Lister. (D.S. App).
1614	Indefinite position, 50°45' N., 10°30' W., 222° Fastnet 51'. (D.S. App).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported (Contd.)

Estimated U-boat dispositions

The U-boat in vicinity of Cape de Verde Islands is probably now starting northwards.

2 between Ireland and Portugal.
3 in North Western Approaches one of them west of 15° W.
1 in Faroes.
Possibly 1 in vicinity of Cape Wrath.
2 possibly approaching Fair Island or Shetlands outward bound.
(D.D.I.C. 1338/3).

Submarines Attacked

1315 By a/c 59°20' N., 0°35' E. Bombs dropped close astern of submarine which may be damaged course 310° (C. in C., Rosyth 1602/3, Donibristle No T.O.O. rec. 1927/3, 1800/3). My 1602. Corrected position of submarine 59°41' N., 00°06' E. at 1315, course 310° (C. in C., Rosyth 1626/3).

2226 TRIAD reports 2226/3 while dived sighted 740 ton U-boat in 58°30' N., 1°22' E. course 330°. Relative position made torpedo attack impossible. TRIAD surfaced and engaged with gun range 3500 yards but U-boat dived after third round. TRIAD dived but could not maintain contact. (TRIAD, 0205/4 V.A.S. 2343/4)

Mediterranean and E. Indies

Ships Attacked

ROULA Greek (1044 tons) Istanbul to Port Said. Owners reported to have been informed that ship was torpedoed by the Italians off Crete on or before 3/8. // of crew landed at Hierapetra (D.S. 334, 335 App.)

Submarines Reported

My 0524/26/7. Air reconnaissance 2/8 and 31/7 reports Italian s/m PERLA no longer in 14°26' N. (?) 41°20' E. (assessment A.1). R.A.F. report no U-boat seen at Massawa 1/8. (assessment B.3). (C. in C., E.I., 08342/3).

Submarines Attacked

Summary of assessments of attacks on Italian U/Bs from reports received to date.(C. in C.,Med., 2025/3)(see Special Summaries Folder).

War Diary

4.8.40.
Sunday.

HOME [redacted]

Policy

Approaches to North Ireland and North and West Scotland.

To simplify reference it is proposed to divide Approach into 2 areas (a) Northern Approaches between lines 000° from N. Ronaldshay and 290° from Butt of Lewis, and (b) North Western Approaches between latter line and line 230° from Kinnoy Foreland. Request your remarks. (A.C.N.S.T. 1311/4 to C. in C.'s H.F. and W.A.).

If these divisions necessary, consider that they and Station limits and Sub-Division should coincide. (A.C.O.S. 1928/4 to Adty.)

Consider would be more convenient if division between N. and N.W. Approaches coincided with that between Orkneys and W.A. Commands. (C. in C., W.A. 2039/4 to Adty.)

Defence of L.L.

More Precautions

Air S/S abandoned. Groups 2,5, and 6 at half an hours notice. (C. in C., Nore, 0337/4). Forces at Harwich, Yarmouth, and Harwich revert to usual notice for steam. One cruiser of 18 C.S. and 3 destroyers at Sheerness remain at half-hours notice; remainder revert to usual notice. (C. in C., Nore, 0959/4) Cancel reference to Cruiser of 18th C.S. and 3 Sheerness destroyers (C. in C., Nore, 2243/4)

Burning Oil Fuel and Petrol as a Defence

Adty to 1913/20/7 and my 2013/1. Meeting at Portsmouth on 3/8 did much to clarify situation. Besides Portsmouth Command will proceed with large scale experiments of under water pipe method. Pending results, use of Flame Weapons in my command will be limited to estuaries and harbours. Strongly recommend formation of Inter-Service Committee to co-ordinate information. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1613/4 to Adty.)

Clyde Balloon Barrage

Will be flying in Clyde and ashore between Greenock and Port Glasgow at 0800 on 6th August. (Air. Min. 1721/14).

Removal of Navigation Marks

Flag Officers may initiate such action where necessary for defence in their own areas. But in general Adty should be informed 48 hour before action taken and in emergencies, without delay. (D. of L.D. 2052/4 to C. in C.'

War Diary

4.8.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Nore — Dispositions for night 4/5. (C. in C., Nore 0800/4 and 1901/4). Day patrols and movements to 1200/5. (C. in C., Nore 1200/4 and recd. 1430/4). VERSATILE and VIVACIOUS anchored in thick fog at 51°32' N. 1°13' E. (VERSATILE, 2140/4 to C. in C. Nore).

Orkneys — Movements for night 4/5. (A.C.O.S. 1648/4).

Dover — Patrols for night 4/5. (V.A. Dover 1701/4).

Operations

Minefield off Scheldt. — Operation C.B.X.4 postponed for 24 hours. (C. in C., Nore, 1200/4).

Thames Approach Channel — Operation QZS.137 is cancelled (S.O. s/ms Harwich, 1405/4 to H.44).

E-Boats

Off Havre — At 1640/4 in 49°27' N., 0° E., 8 E-boats making for harbour were attacked by a/c. Near misses claimed. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 1830/4).

At 1642/4 in 49°21' N., 0°10' W., 6 boats thought to be E-boats. A/c report. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 1830/4).

Landevennet 12' S.E. of Brest — 14 small craft of which 6 possibly E-boats. A/c report (PRU. St. Eval, 2040/4).

1 E-boat at 50°26' N., 0°50' W. (ACHERON 2240/4) Enemy retired behind smoke-screen. (ACHERON, 2250/4).

Engagement with KINGSTON CHRYSOBERYL — 2245, 180° St. Catherines Pt. 20 miles sighted E-boat 2 cables off fire opened simultaneously by enemy and ship no hits sustained. Enemy escaped under cover of smoke screen. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1635/5).

War Diary

4.8.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines

Holy Loch as base for FORTH — In event of it being required to maintain additional submarines on patrol in Bay of Biscay or further South intended that FORTH and requisite number of 2nd Sub. Flotilla be based Holy Loch. N.O.I.C. Greenock has been consulted and concurs. (R.A.S. 1211/4 to Adty.)

H.44 — Leave Patrol after dark 4th and return Harwich. (S.O. S/ms Harwich 1405/4 to H.44). Arrives Z at 0600/5 unescorted and on surface. (N.O.I.C. Harwich, 1502/4).

TRIBUNE — Expected time of arrival 0430/5. (TRIBUNE 1438/4 to C. in C., Rosyth).

H.34 — Leaves Harwich am/5th, through Z, thence Southward to patrol (N.O.I.C. Harwich, 1502 /4) Leaves at 0600/5 (N.O.I.C. Harwich, 2358/4).

SNAPPER — Reports two unsuccessful attempts to charge on surface in daylight. Was sighted by a/c both times within 5 minutes of surfacing. (V.A.S. 1516/4 to Adty.).

Submarines — Positions and movements in Area A at 0600/5 (V.A.S. 1747/4 and 2344/4).

Air.

British Air Activity

Clyde Balloon Barrage — See Defence of U.K.

Channel Convoys Mobile Balloon Barrage. — See Shipping.

Air searches — For 5/8. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1726/4).

Operation 50 — Repeat tonight by 59 Sqdn. (H.Q.C.C. 1800/4).

At 1910/4 in 55°30' N., 5°31' E. A/c bombed and machine gunned one of the 5 fishing smacks.

War Diary

4.8.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Air

British Air Activity (Contd.)

Operation 50 (Cond.)

Machine gun hits claimed but smack apparently not disabled. (Donibristle 2250/4).

GNEISENAU

Between 2345/3 and 0120/4, 4 Hampdens attacked GNEISENAU and the munitions depot at Kiel. One 2000 lb. bomb and twelve 500 lb bombs were dropped. Results not observed. (H.Q.B.C. 0140/5).

Between 0012 and 0200/4 a Flak ship at 54°28' N. 10°14' E. and 6 cargo boats about 600 tons at 54°41' N., 9°56' E. were bombed. Results not observed. (Bomber Command 2315/5).

Enemy Air Activity

Enemy A/c showing correct recognition signal

Enemy A/c flying round showing correct recognition signal at 59°41' N., 0°10' W. (MAORI 1145/4). Your 1145. Are you sure A/c seen was enemy (C. in C., Rosyth 1226/4 to MAORI). Your 1226. Quite positive. A/c identified as Dornier 17 by both MAORI and MASHONA. (MAORI 1427/4 to C. in C., Rosyth) Report if A/c answered your challenge by flashing letter of day or by 2 star cartridge, or did a/c flash letter of day to you (C. in C., Rosyth, 1630/4 to MAORI). By use of 2-star cartridges on 3 occasions. German markings clearly seen and fire was opened on a/c. (MAORI 1831/4 to C. in C., Rosyth).

Your 1630/4. MAORI reports a/c challenged by MAORI by light and after pause of about one minute fired correct two star identification signal for the day. After circling plane turned up on parallel course at about 500 feet and again fired correct signal. Written report follows. (R.A.D. 2146/5, to C. in C., Rosyth).

War Diary

4.8.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Minefield off Scheldt — Operation CBX.4 postponed for 24 hours (C. in C., Nore, 1200/4)(Capt.D.20 1040/4 to C. in C., Nore).

Humber — A/c near No.17 Buoy, probably minelaying. (AURORA 0043/4 to F.O. Humber). Closed from Spurn Point to Humber Light Vessel. Magnetic mines(F.O. Humber 0350/4 to Adty.) Humber open (F.O. Humber 1754/4).

Rosyth — Port closed between East Gate Inchkeith and 56°5'30" N., 2°52' W. till intervening area swept. (C. in C., Rosyth, 0135/4 to Adty.) Port open (C. in C., Rosyth, 0743/4 to Adty.)

MARSOMA — M/S trawler. Sunk while passing sweep at 0725/4 in about 57°40'30" N., 3°54'30" W. Explosion detonated a second magnetic mine. Six survivors landed. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1000/4 to Adty.)

Invergordon — Additional assistance now required to expedite sweeping and enable Port to be opened (F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1030/4).

CACHALOT — Will leave Rothesay pm/8th. to relieve TALISMAN and will embark mines at Clyde before sailing. (V.A.S. 1209/4).

Plymouth — Since my 1443/3 one red mine detonated 201° Breakwater Fort 2 miles. (C. in C., W.A. 1246/4).

OSWALDIAN — A/P. trawler. Sunk 1 mile S.E. from Breaksea Light Vessel. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1535/4).

HARRIER reports one moored mine at 2000/4 about 227° 54 A. Buoy 4 miles. S.O. 6th M/S ordered detail ship to recover sinker and destroy mine tomorrow. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2156/4 to Adty.)

War Diary

4.8.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining (Contd.)

New Themes Approach Channel

Complete clearance sweep tomorrow. Then return Harbour. (C. in C., Nore, 2223/4 to S.O. 6th M/S Flotilla). Owing to fog xx delay, 8 fast minesweepers will continue operating tomorrow 5th. (C. in C., Nore 2241/4).

NUCLASE report one small mine, 4 horns, presumably from Z. Have ordered her to tow it into shallow water off Newcombe Sands for investigation am/5th. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 2230/4 to C. in C., Nore).

At 0134/4 in about 52°50' N., 2°30' E. a heavy explosion observed in the sea. Nothing seen over spot. A/c report. (Bomber Command 2315/5).

Enemy Intelligence

Scheldt

At 1330/4, two small fast vessels possibly gun-boats steaming south off Tolen in the East Scheldt. Another in the main channel, same course. (PIU. 0050/5).

Flushing

Four 1000-ton barges near Canal entrance, and one at the oil storage tanks. Ten small steamers less than 200 feet. (PIU 2310/4). Photographic R/C on 4/8 shows increased shipping in Flushing harbour with barge activity at E. wall of outer harbour. (H.Q.C.C. 1630/5).

Nieuport

On 4th, some accumulation of barges (PIU 2310/4)

Main German Units

No further information. (D.D.I.C. 1718/4).

War Diary

4.8.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoy OG.4Q — One ship should patrol astern of convoy during darkness. WESTCOTT to remain with convoy till reaching 53° N. and then proceed Liverpool. (C. in C., W.A. 1523/4 to ENCHANTRESS).

Channel Convoys Balloon Barrage — On 4/8 and until further notice the channel convoy will be protected by mobile balloon barrage between Sheerness and Falmouth in each direction. Balloons expected to leave Southampton water for St. Helens to join convoy on 4/8. (Air Min. 1721/4 to RANAS).

Convoy W.S.2. — Will sail Liverpool and Clyde 5/8 with troops. Ships and destinations. (D. of S.T. 2205/4) To proceed in two groups escorted by CORNWALL and SHROPSHIRE respectively. Instructions. (A.C.N.S.F. 2359/4).

BARRAIDA — Arrived Methil with cargo of guns 1630/3. Proposed escort to Faroes. (C. in C., Rosyth 1111/4 to Adty.). Your 1111/4. Concur. (C. in C., W.A. 1642/4 to C. in C., Rosyth).

War Diary

4.8.40.
Sunday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

BERWICK — In collision at 0043/4 in 55°32' N., 6°27' W. (C. in C., W.A. 0122/4 and 0258/4 to C. in C. H.F.). Expected time of arrival 1000 (BERWICK 0709/4 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

CITY OF CANBERRA — Intend sailing to tow of tug ST. OLAVES at about 0700/5 for Thames escorted by ROYAL EAGLE. Request fighter protection. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1244/5 to C. in C., Nore). Tug ST. OLAVES will begin tow of CITY OF CANBERRA at daylight 5th, fog permitting. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1904/4 to C. in C., Nore).

ANGELE MARRO — Egyptian, 3154 tons, left Bilbas 6th July, now much overdue at Cardiff. (D.S. 335).

GANGES — British, reported overdue by S.O.(I) Capetown 0918 (? 3/8) was damaged in collision and is now at Bombay. (C. in C., E.I. 0522Z/4).

ARPHA — Collided with Roumanian BUCEGI during boarding operation on 4/8. Slight damage repairable locally. (N.O.I.C. Port Said 1613/5 to Adty.)

War Diary

4.8.1940.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic.

Cagliari — Account of attack on Cagliari has been given to Mr. Murphy, Reuter Correspondent, for release to Press. (F.O.C.N.A., 1756/4)

Gibraltar Military Situation. — Re defences and air raid shelters, and problem of redundant civilian population who have moved into deep shelters and live under deplorable conditions. As Rock may have to be held without air support in face of air and land bombardment, urge that arrangements be made to enable me to send away every unessential civilian. (Governor to W.O., 1800/4)

South Atlantic

SHROPSHIRE — Not docked during present visit to U.K. (D.O.D.(F) to C. in C., S.A., 1556/4)

Raiders. (possibly 2) — British DUQUESA arrived Freetown 4/8 was in position 06.38' S., 18.32' W., at 1130 GMT 31/7. Disguised merchant ship raider report and description were received by her from British DOMINGO DE LARRINAGA. All subsequent transmissions by Ascension and DOMINGO DE LARRINAGA were jammed, nothing futher being heard from the latter after 1150 GMT. Another ship attempting to re-transmit raider report to Freetown wireless was jammed at 1310 GMT. Jamming was by two transmitters, never worked together, considered that they belong to the same ship As nothing further heard from DOMINGO DE LARRINAGA, appears certain that ship reported by her was a raider. Ship engaged by ALCANTARA would have had to steam at 19 knots to be in this position, so that there must either be two raiders in South Atlantic or ALCANTARA's adversary could not have been seriously damaged. Successful jamming and use of shrapnel against aerial would account for raider reports not being received from other ships overdue. (C. in C., S.A., 1400/4

French TOUAREG — Your 1218/3. If French ship TOUAREG is intercepted she is to be escorted to Lagos. Pending further instructions, no persons to be removed from Touareg. (D.O.D., (F) to C. in C., S.A., 0155/4)

/DRAGON.....

War Diary

4.8.1940.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic. Contd.

DRAGON — Left Lagos 1830/3 in accordance C. in C., S.A. 1020/3.(S.O.I., Freetown, 1152/4) (to search for TOUAREG)

ALCANTARA — Wounded progressing favourably. They will not be landed at Rio de Janeiro. (ALCANTARA 0930/4)

Mediterranean

VALIANT — Your 1444/26. Desired to limit stay in Malta during night to 4 to 5 to 5 hours. Request confirmation that you expect to be able to disembark guns and equipment within this time, and that ship's resources only will be required. (D.O.D.(F) to VALIANT, 0053/4)

Ref 0053/4. Most improbable 3.7-in guns can be cleared in time and condition stated. Ship's cranes unreliable even with 6 ton load. Particular precautions to avoid damaging catapult rail are essential, and this will in any case make night work slow. (VALIANT, 1017/4)

Operations Intended — C.S. 7 in LIVERPOOL with GLOUCESTER and 2 destroyers leaves Alexandria p.m. 4/8 to carry out sweep of Aegean to Doro Channel and Gulf of Athens, thence through Kithera Channel p.m. 6/8, object to maintain pressure in Aegean and cover movement of shipping in Eastern Mediterranean and tankers ex Danube from Piraeus to Alexandria. Destroyers leave Alexandria a.m. 4/8 and carry out A/S sweep past Nile delta and present positions, thence up Palestine and Syrian coasts and round Cyprus to Haifa, object to cover movements of shipping in Eastern Mediterranean and load of Pyrite ships at Morphou Bay. (C. in C., Med., 1017/4)

Movements — LIVERPOOL, GLOUCESTER, JERVIS and HOSTILE leave Alexandria 1600/4 (for operation as above). HER and IMPERIAL left Alexandria 0800/4 (for operation as above) HASTY leaves Alexandria p.m. 4/8 to join HERO and IMPERIAL.

/VENDETTA.....

War Diary

4.8.1940.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean.

Movements. Contd.

VENDETTA and convoy leave Alexandria 1430/4 for Port Said, Haifa and Famagusta. Submarines PARTHIAN left patrol off Sicily 2100/31/7, due Alexandria 0230/7; OSIRIS leaves Alexandria 1800/4 for Strait of Otranto; RORQUAL leaves Alexandria 1800/4 for Malta (C. in C., Med., 1429/4)

Air

Italian Shipping

Repeating C. in C., Med.'s 1811/18/7, Italian shipping may be sunk without warning within 30 miles of any Italian territory. Presume this applies to aircraft attacks and am issuing instructions accordingly. Request information whether restrictions in previous Air Ministry letters (numbers quoted) still apply outside 30 mile limit or whether now modified. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., to Air Min., 1552/4)

Air Raid on Derna

3 bombing attacks were carried out on shipping in Derna harbour (Libya) ~~today~~ 3/8. Three hits on ships and several near misses were obtained. The jetty was also hit. (D.S. App. 335 ~~gives~~ gives date incorrectly 4/8.)

Air Raid on Malta

Malta was raided by 17 C.R. 42's p.m. /4 No bombs were dropped. (D.S. App. 225)

East Indies

CANTERBURY

British ship, reported overdue your 0918, was damaged in collision and is now at Bomba (C. in C., E.I., to S.O.I., Capetown, 0522Z/4)

DANAE DAUNTLESS

DANAE will leave Colombo a.m. 5/8 and arrive Penang (date). Request you amend her orders if you wish. Appreciate help of DANAE and DAUNTLESS. (C. in C., E.I. to C. in C., China, 07382/4)

Shipping

Departures 1939/3 for Port Sudan, etc., route R.S.2. (S.B.N.O., Suez Canal, 0940/4)

/AGRA.....

War Diary

4.8.1940.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies, Contd.

AGRA — Your 1056/30/7. Swedish AGRA at 1351Z/4 bearing 135 degrees. Working Sourabaya radio on 500 k/cs. (F.O.C.S.R.I.N., to C., in C., E.I., 1426Z/4)

Convoy B.N.S. — ANTENOR and RANCHI to form Force R. for B.N. S. (C. in C., E.I., 1446/4)

CAPETOWN (Reinforcement from Medtn. Station) — Expects to pass through position 19S, 70 (27° N.,) CF (?) 33, steering 15o° at 20 knots at 0400 tomorrow Monday. (S.N.O., Suez Canal, to CLIVE and REGENT, 1623/4)

Air

Hangova Bombed — By R.A.F. (see U-Boat Campaign)

China

KANIMBLA HOUSTON BAY — Adty. 1406/3. re transfer of A.M.C's to another station. Pending reply from Australian Naval Board. KANIMBLA is proceeding to Colombo in accordance with my 0315/3 to C. in C., E.I. HOUSTON BAY is other vessel selected (C. in C., China, 0357Z/4. My 0351. Intend to sail HOUSTON BAY from singapore to Cape Town via Malacca Straits tomorrow Monday evening. Asking for route. (C. in C., China, to C., in C., E.I., 0515Z/4) Your 0515/4. Request be routed from Achin Head direct to point midway between Mauritius and Rodriguez and thence to Cape Town through position 28° S., 50° E. British oiler OLGADES is available at Mauritious. (C. in C., E.I., to C., in C., China, 1140Z/4)

America & West Indies

CARADOC — Raider situation, CARADOC has been temporarily released by Canadian Govt. to join me. After escorting B.H.X. 64 intend to operate her from Bermuda so that she will be well placed if urgently required by Canadian authorities. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1022/4)

Contraband — Information from letters in Westbound Clipper Mail re goods possibly of German or Italian origin in Finnish MATHILDA THORDEN, MARISA THORDEN or KARIN THORDEN. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1642/4)

War Diary

4.8.1940.
Sunday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

CHARLOTTE-SCHLIEMANN — Tanker, 7747 G.T., reported 2/8 to be still at short notice and awaiting instructions. (D.S. App. 334)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

NICOLO ODERO — 6,003 tons, taken in prize by French, known to have left Marseilles. (D.S. App., 334)

VALCH — 5, 639 G.T., previously seized at Haifa, arrived Port Said 2/8 in prize. (D.S. App., 334)

War Diary

4.8.1940.
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships attacked

GOGOVALE
(See also
KING ALFRED)

British, 4,586 tons in convoy H X 60 from Halifax, SSSS, 57.09' N., 16.54' W. (Land's End Radio, 0202/4) GOGVALE torpedoed 57.08' N., 16.26' W., has about 18 aboard and should float about half an hour, no boats left; another boat near which has been torpedoes and has men aboard also. (Port Patrick Radio, 0322/4) Help wanted several men aboard, las position 57.08' N., 16.26' W., one boat away only, remainder smashed. Do not know how long we will last. (GOGVALE, 0350/4) No boats left, Men on board including Master. Wireless receiver smashed by explosion, cannot hear. (GOGOVALE, 0408/4) MALLOW and GLADIOLUS in position 56.59' N., 16.32' W. No sign of GOGOVALE request her position. (GLADIOLUS, 1020/5) D.R. position 0900/4 56° 59' N. obsd. 17° 2' W., drifting E.N.E. 2 knots (VANOC 1215/6)

KING ALFRED

British, 5,272 tons, in convoy H.X.60. S.O.S., Two ships sunk in position 57.08' N., 16. 26' W. Keep look-out for survivors in boats and raft 0325/4. (Port Patrick Radio 0632/4)

VANOC proceeding to KING ALFRED, GOGOVALE reported torpedoed in position 57.00' N., 17.00' W., ST. LAURENT in company. (SANDWICH, 0630/4)

KING ALFRED blown in two, an about to sink stern by gunfire. GOGOVALE floating with 20° list, cargo of flour, will almost certainly float. An remaining in company in position 56.59' N., 17°32' W. All survivors in VANOC, 7 missing from KING ALFRED.(VANOC, 0901/4). Advising 15 Group KING ALFRED torpedoed position 57°00' N., 17°00' W., GOGOVALE position 57°09' N., 17°54' W., probably same U-boat. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q., 0920/4).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked (Contd.)

GERALDINE MARY	British, 7,244 tons torpedoed in position 56°52' N., 15°51' W. (SANDWICH, 0830/4). In HX.60 convoy. A/c which intercepted signals re GOGOVALE and KINGALFRED was approx. 19 miles ahead of convoy when GERALDINE MARY, on extreme right of convoy, was torpedoed 0830. Co-operated with two drs. in search of U-boat 0855, 57°03' N., 16°01' W. At 1210, directed drs. H.33 and L.12 to survivors in rafts and lifeboats; 1225, all survivors picked up, left convoy 1240, comprising 54 M.V. and 1 dr. in position 57°01' N., 15°10' W., 096, 8. other drs. on A/S hunt near torpedoed ship. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q., 1745/4).

Submarines Reported

0302	A.F. message, correct position 57°08' N., 16°26' W., at 0202 G.M.T. (D.C., 0445/4).
0636	A/c sighted at 0636 long trail of oil about 1 mile long and 20 yds. wide in position 56°24' N., 8.52' W. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q., 0825/4).
1516	D/F, unknown unit, probably U-boat, in 55° N., 10° W., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C., 1534/4).
0646	Indefinite position, 100' E. Sumburgh. (D.S. App., 334).
2040	54°10' N., 12°20' W. (248° Bloody Foreland 154 miles). Indefinite position (D.S. App. 335).

Estimated U/B dispositions

1 in Canaries area moving northwards.
Possibly 1 in Finisterre Area.
1 in Western Approaches.
3 in North West Approaches, 1 of them S.W. of Rockall and another in Malin Hd. area.
1 near Flannan Islands outward bound.
1 in North Rona area.
Possibly 1 in Faroes Area.
2 N. of Scotland outward bound.
1 probably nearing Fair Island outward bound.
(D.D.I.C. 1254/4).

U-boat may pass north of Fair Island with westgoing tide pm/4 (D.D.I.C. 1215/4).

War Diary

4.8.40.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked

1245 — SANDWICH and ST. LAURENT made 8 attacks on submarine contact in position 56°52' N., 15°51' W without visible results. ST. LAURENT continuing search as fuel permits. VANOC and SANDWICH picking up survivors of GERALDINE MARY and rejoining convoy (HX.60). (SANDWICH, 1245/4)

0510 — By a/c with dive bombs, estimate 2 hits, position 59°54' N., 5°30' W. (A/c 269 Sqdn. 0510/4). ACHATES and FIREDRAKE to proceed as soon as ready to search for U/B bombed by a/c. (R.A.D., H.F., 0640/4). A/c 0510. Revised position based on a/c's landfall 59°48' N., 5°30' W. Course of s/m 300°. Interrogation of pilot indicates s/m probably damaged. Further a/c will attempt to reach vicinity about 1200 remaining until 1700. (C. in C., Rosyth, 0740/4).

Mediterranean & East Indies

Ships Attacked

ROULA — Greek, 1,044 tons, reported torpedoed by an Italian submarine south of Crete. Was bound independently from Istanbul to Port Said. (D.O.R., 5/8).

Submarines Attacked.

Massawa — My 0834/3. 2nd August R.A.F. photograph shows three U-boats at Massawa. 4th August R.A.F. reports 2 U/b located Massawa and attacked. 2 A/S bombs dropped in water between them. Damage unknown but hope considerable as maximum distance between U/bs 60 yards. Also 1 direct on enemy naval vessel alongside and near miss other craft. (C. in C., E.I., 0800/5).

War Diary

5.8.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

More — Ships revert to normal notice for steam; except that 1 cruiser and 2 destroyers at Sheerness are to remain at half an hours notice. (C. in C., More, 0959/5).

Shetlands — My 1921/23. Am grateful for arms etc., received from Naval sources. No information yet received as to what if any reinforcements may be expected. If none should like to know definitely and, after asking that my considered opinion that garrison is inadequate may be recorded, will proceed to do everything possible with present resources, but urgently request 500 rifles and 10 lewis guns with ammunition be sent to equip L.D.Vs coming forward well, also that some 400 airmen without arms should be armed. (F.O.C.S. 1033/5 to 1st S.L.).

Faroes — Artillery R/C officer agrees wth me that the only practicable site for 5.5 inch guns is not suitable for close defence of the narrows in Skaale Fiord. In prevalent low visibility enemy might reach entrance without being engaged and I strongly recommend mounting 2 twelve pounder guns and searchlights near Strender to cover narrows. (N.O.I.C. Faroes, 1630/5 to Adty.)

Plymouth — Recommendations for strengthening fixed defences. (C. in C., W.A. 1827/5 to Adty.)

Solent — Your 1157/30. No guns are immediately available for this purpose. Need for battery on mainland to cover Western Approach is appreciated and will be filled when a battery is available. (A.C.N.S.H. 1836/5 to C. in C., Portsmouth).

Patrol off Lowestoft — Your 1840. While patrol U is withdrawn, 2 destroyers to keep steam at half an hours notice. (C. in C., Nore, 1958/5 to D.5).

Patrol off Lowestoft — Owing to shortage of destroyers patrol U is suspended until further orders. (C. in C., Nore, 2201/5 to F.O.I.C. Humber).

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K. (Contd.)

Orkneys — Request you report all army requirements for defence works of all aerodromes in your command, stating if works should be carried out by Adty. and making proposals for defence works required by Naval personnel. (D. of L.D. 2003/5 to A.C.O.S.).

Policy

Proposed Division of Approaches to N. Ireland and N.W. Scotland — Your 1311/4. Concur; but consider that division between the areas should be the same as that between Orkneys and W.A. commands. (C. in C., H.F., 0934/5 to Adty.)

Re-inforcement of C. in C., W.A. by destroyers — My 1933/2. In view of heavy shipping losses in Northern Approaches, 5 destroyers from H.F. are to reinforce C. in C. W.A. and one division of the 5th Flotilla is to join H.F. C. in C.'s H.F. and Nore requested to inform Adty. of names of destroyers detailed. (1st S.L. 1117/5 to C. in C., W.A.) (See movements).

Dutch Naval Ships — F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1529/3. Copies of A/K 1713/11/7 and B.D.Z. 0719-1516/19/7 have been sent to F.O.I.C. Liverpool. (C. in C., W.A. 2331/5 to Adty.)

Additional A/S trawlers for N.W. Approaches — Decided to withdraw A/S trawlers from Anti-invasion patrol to reinforce N.W. Approaches. 19 trawlers named to be sailed from Nore, Portsmouth, Portland, Plymouth, Larne, Ardrossan, and Kirkwall to Belfast to join Belfast trawler force. (A.C.N.S.T. 2353/5).

Movements

Nore — Dispositions for Night 5/6 August. (C. in C., Nore, 0800/5). Day patrols and movements to 1200/6. (C. in C., Nore, 1200/5).
M.T.B. state for night 5/6 Aug. (C. in C., Nore, 1945/5).

DEVONSHIRE — Will sail for Clyde pm/6/8 with C.S.1 on board. (C. in C., H.F. 1155/5 and 2127/5 to F.O. Greenock).

War Diary

5.8.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements (Contd.)

T. Patrol — Positions from 0030 to 0405/6. (D.16 1213/5 to C. in C., Nore).

Additional destroyers for C. in C., W.A. (see Policy) — Your 1117/5. Only available destroyers of 5th Flotilla are KELVIN, JAGUAR, JAVELIN, and JUPITER. These are being sent. (C. in C., Nore, 1320/5 to Adty.). When and where are 5th Flotilla destroyers required (C. in C., Nore, 1604/5 to C. in C., H.F.). Cancel my 1320/5. Propose sail JAGUAR and JAVELIN tomorrow and KIPLING on completion 7/8. (C. in C. Nore, 1729/5 to Adty.)
Your 1729/5. Approved; but a 4th destroyer should be sent as soon as one available after boiler cleaning. These destroyers will continue to be administered by Capt. D.5. (D.O.D.H. 1937/5 to C. in C., Nore).

Floating Dock XII. — Should complete in Tyne about 13/8 when intended she be towed for Scapa. Dock has been degaussed, and should be swept by LL sweeps out of Tyne and into Scapa. C. in C., Rosyth requested arrange for A/S and A/A escort. A/S screen should consist of 5 A/S trawlers, with 2 destroyers or escort vessels which can also act as A/A screen. (D.O.D.H. 1404/5 to C. in C., Rosyth). No A/S escort available from Rosyth. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1831/5 to Adty)

O Patrol for night 6/7 Aug. — Destroyers detailed. (Capt. D. 16 D.F. 1424/5).

Battle Practice Target — My 2150/4. Intend sailing EREBUS, SABRE, and SCIMITAR and tug MARAUDER with B.P. target in tow at 2100/5. Request fighter protection as in my 1427/4. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 1508/5 to Adty.)

Portsmouth — Tonight 5th. Five destroyers covering coasting vessels between Portsmouth and Portland. SALADIN, SKATE, ACHERON returning to Portsmouth, FERNIE and STURDY to Portland, all arriving dawn 6th. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1757/5 to Adty.)

Your 1833. L.27 at immediate notice. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1807/5 to Adty.)

HOME COMMANDS

Movements (Contd.)

Dover — Patrols for night 5/6. (V.A.D. Dover, 1758/5).

ILLUSTRIOUS — On completion of programme in F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1854/30, request you sail ILLUSTRIOUS to Scapa as ordered by C. in C., H.F. My 1926/30. She will be sailed direct from Scapa to R/V with VALIANT. (D.O.D.H. 1922/5 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Channel Escort Force — A/M. 2353/5. Names of 11 A/S trawlers allocated to C. in C., Nore, for Channel Escort Force. (A.C.N.S.T. 2354/5 to C. in C., Nore).

Operations

Intercepting Minesweepers on French coast — Your 1603/3. There is no indication that enemy sweepers are working along this coast during dark hours. All available evidence shows that they are more likely to do their sweeping by day. M.T.B. forces from the Nore Command have already carried out a number of sweeps along the enemy coast by night and have found nothing. These will be extended to the area mentioned in co-operation with V.A. Dover. He and I agree that these waters 3 miles from the French coast, covered by searchlights and shore guns as well as by E-boats and aircraft, would be most unhealthy for our destroyers. We should gladly send them if enemy destroyers or larger fighting ships were to be found there but this is not the case at present and does not seem probable in the near future. (C. in C., Nore, 1458/5 to Adty.)

Submarines

Brest — Your 1833/7/7. H.34 is proceeding to patrol near Brest. TALISMAN patrolling near 45°41' N. 1°30' W. (C. in C., W.A. 1724/5 to Adty.)

Positions — Position and movements for following 24 hours at 0600/6 in area A. (V.A.S. 1737/5). In area B. (V.A.S. 1738/5).

War Diary

5.8.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines

Proposed use of Scapa for Submarine Exercises instead of Forth

Owing to enemy mining activity in Forth Approaches it is no longer practicable for Submarines to carry out practices in this area. If no objection to torpedo firing and independent exercises being carried out in the Flow I will send them to Scapa with WHITE BEAR when practises are required and Submarines can be spared. This will not be often. (V.A.S. 1816/5 to A.C.O.S.)

Attacking U/bs.

Proceed to near 59°50' N., 3° E. Object of patrol to attack U-boats between Fair Island Channel and Kory or Selbjorn Fiord. (R.A.S. 1836/5 to TAKU).

PORPOISE

Sails at 0600/6 for Blyth. Expects arrive Blyth 1500. (C. in C., Rosyth, 2354/5 to WINCHESTER).

SPEAR FISH

German broadcast claims U-boat successfully attacked you. Withdraw well clear of coast and report during dark hours. (V.A.S. 1249/5 to SPEARFISH).

E-Boats

E-boats near North Foreland. (C. in C., Nore, 2315/5 to VENETIA, VESPER, VIVIEN).

Air-British Air Activity

Dolvik

One Skua leaving to report weather with view to daylight operation against petrol installation at Dolvik (Hardanger Fiord)(Hatston 0812/5). My 0812/5. Weather unsuitable for operation today. (Hatston, 1235/5).

Programme 6/8

For Groups A, B, C. (H.Q.C.C. 1900/5).

Air - Enemy Air Activity

Convoy ports (Operation CBX see Mining)

Being shadowed by 2 enemy aircraft 53°2' N., 1°47' E. 1°47 (Capt. D.20 1734/5).

Convoy CE.8

See situation report (Account based on D.S.App, 336).

War Diary

6.3.1940.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

FD 24	Preliminary Order to CACHALOT (V.A.S 1108/5 to S.7)
Minelaying West of Scheldt (Operation GBK 4)	Sailed at 1300/5 from Humber D.20 in EXPLORER, RSK? ICARUS, INTREPID, and IMPULSIVE in company (F.O. Humber 1312/5 to Adty.) M.T.B's 25,28, 29, 30 sail Harwich 2015/5 to cover GBK 4. (C. in C., Nore, 1200/5)
Aberdeen	Red Magnetic Mine detonated at 1331/5 in 57° 8' 12" N., 2° 2' 18" W., Both sides of SZS 12 now open. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1450/5 to Adty.)
Yarmouth	Magnetic Mine exploded 2½ cables 338° from N.W. Corton Buoy. Corton Roads considered unsafe between 52° 30' N., and 52° 34' N., (F.O.I.C., Yarmouth 1700/5 to Adty.)
RIVER CLYDE	M/S Trawler, mined and sunk 1 mile W. of Aldeburgh Fleet (F.O.I.C., Harwich 1714/5 to C. in C., Nore) (F.O.I.C., Harwich 2328/5 to Adty.)
Humber	Closed. Clearance to Humber Light Vessel. Magnetic Mines (F.O.Humber 2327/5 to Adty.)
140 SZS Sweep	One mine Sautter Harle type cut and destroyed at 140° M. Shipwash Buoy 2.7 miles. 3 mines cut on outer Eastern Lap. One mine caught in sweep on western Outer Lap. One sunk RIVER CLYDE. Total 6 today. (F.O.I.C., Harwich, 2328/5 to Adty.)
Blyth	Closed till sweeping completed. (N.O.I.C., Blyth 2344/5 to Adty.)
Harwich	My 1920/5. Seven fast minesweepers will operate from daylight to-morrow between 52° N., 1° 44' E., 51° 55' N., 1° 46'E., and 51° 47' N., 1° 48' E., Request some Air Protection as today. (C. in C., Nore, 2345/5 to A.O.C. in C., Fighter Command)
Beachy Head	One floating mine sunk on S/S by rifle fire 194° Royal Sovereign 5 miles. No further details yet. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1855/6 to Adty.)

War Diary

5.8.40.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Fire — Large fire bearing 092° from 51° 32' N., 1° 13' E., at 2320/4 (VERSATILE 0235/5 to C. in C., Nore.)

Norwegian Officer — Reports underground Aerodromes at Varde and Brandir in Denmark; and general belief in Norway that Germany established at Jan Mayen Island. Large dumps of heavy bombs at Trondheim; and suggests northerly passage exists through British minefield because mines detonated by ice. (Alabaster, Reykjavik 2146/4 to War Office.)

At 2349/5 in 51° 44' N., 2° 35' E., a large well-lit unidentified ship apparently stationary (H.Q.B.C., 2345/6)

Shipping

Convoy WS.3. — Intend sailing Clyde portion at 0630/6 for R/V with Liverpool portion as by C. in C., W.A. 1521/2 and C. in C., W.A., 1747/3. (F.O. Greenock 1335/5 to Adty.)

ULSTER MONARCH — With about 350 Army personnel will be ready leave Clyde p.m. /14 for Faroes. (D.C.D.H., 1331/5 to C. in C., H.F.)

LAHTI — Finnish, 616 tons. Left Swedish territorial waters on 3/8 and is announced by Broadcast from Motala at 1900/5 to have been seized by Germans in North Sea and Prize Crew put on board. (D.S. 335)

Convoy SL 42 — R/V 18/8 escort DELHI till 8/8 then MALOJA (D.T.D. 1522/5)

Convoy HX 63 — R/V 16/8 escort ASCANIA returns to Halifax (D.T.D., 1258/5) Sailing telegram (D.T.D. 1606/5)

War Diary

5.8.1940.
Monday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

CAPE ST. GEORGE — Damaged by collision with Wreck towed into her during night 4/5 at 12° 35' N., 20° W., making water fast in No 1. superstructure British GROOMO steaming by. Wreck believed to be that of Yugo-Slavian MAD. (DELHI 0803/5 to C. in C., S.A.) (C. in C., S.A. 0959/5 to MALOJA)

SEA GLORY — British, 1964 tons, sailed from Newey on 5th July and overdue at Philadelphia since 25/7. (D.S. 335)

War Diary

5.8.40
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Force "H" — Departure of RENOWN to be delayed to enable you to visit Admiralty before returning to your station. (1st S.L. to F.O. Force H, 2336/5)

South Atlantic

DRAGON, Duala — Governor Nigeria has received message from Vice-Consul, Duala, stating French submarine is leaving Duala Saturday 3/8 probably for Libreville and has orders to sink DRAGON if met with at sea. Vice-Consul reports further that two French destroyers were reported arriving Duala 3/8. (C. in C.S.A., 0215/5, to DRAGON, repeated BRIDGEWATER)

French TOURAREG — BRIDGEWATER to withdraw and establish patrol on meridian 008° E., assuming French ship TOURAREG will pass south Fernando Po. DRAGON and civil aircraft searched large area 4/8 and will continue until noon 5/8. DRAGON will then proceed in south easterly direction to Portofino. Unless otherwise ordered, BRIDGEWATER to leave patrol for Lagos p.m.6/8. (DRAGON to BRIDGEWATER, 0728/5)

Your 0913/3 and my 0155/4. If TOURAREG is escorted by French warships she is to be shadowed and not interfered with pending further instructions. (1st S.L., to C.in C., S.A., 1412/5).

Admty. 1412/5. If TOUAREG is intercepted and is being escorted by French naval forces of equivalent or superior fighting power to our ships, TOURAREG is not to be interfered with. If the French naval escort is weak and likely to be overawed, endeavour should be made by peaceful means to get the TOURAREG to proceed to Lagos. Fire is not to be used to enforce our demand. Should the French ship open fire her fire is not to be returned and action is to be avoided. (1st S.L. to C.in C.S.A., 1631/5)

CAMPBELL — Sails for Freetown 1700/6, route.(N.P.C.1700/5

CAPE ST. GEORGE, BRIG. — Your 0803/5 is not very clear. Presume British ship GRODNO rescued survivors of the wreck. British CAPE ST. GEORGE should make for Bathurst with a fast ship to stand by her. (C. in C.S.A. to DELHI, 1002/5)

Break W/T silence and report immediately (a) Whose survivors you have on board and numbers, (b) condition of CAPE ST. GEORGE, (c) is there any other wreck in your vicinity. (C. in C.S.A., to GRODNO.1112/5) Reply see GRODNO 1825/6, C. in C.S.A., 2200/6)

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic (Ctd.)

CUMBERLAND — If situation permits, proceed to search down K 36 A. and assist in search. (C. in C.S.A. to CUMBERLAND, 1321/5)

Suspicious ships Ft. Helena. — O.C. Troops, St. Helena, reports unidentified ship moving northward, two masts, two grey funnels, grey hull, fuelling from oil tanker distance 30 miles, bearing 330°. Remain out and search for her as long as possible and return to Freetown when fuel situation makes this necessary. (C. in C.S.A. to DORSETSHIRE 1318/5). My 1318/5. If you were ship reported by O.C. Troops, close St. Helena and inform signal station by visual signalling for onward transmission to me. (C. in C.S.A., 1625/5, to DORSETSHIRE).

Repeating O.C. Troops message to Admty. Have requested further details and confirmation ship was refuelling. No north bound but four southbound tankers could be in this position (names). Cannot identify any two funnel merchant ship or warship unless Netherlands cruiser SUMATRA left Curacao earlier than 2/8 as anticipated in C. in C. A.W.I. 1225/25 and is not calling at Freetown. (S.O.I., Cape Town, 1645/5, to Admty).

My 1645/5. Reply of O.C. Troops, St. Helena, to my 1620/5 reports ship coloured grey and shaped similar to British cruiser. Was followed by tanker black hull which, when she stopped, came alongside. Cannot say definitely if she fuelled as distance too great for any details and visibility became nil, and when it cleared after three hours no sign of ship or tanker. (S.O.I., Cape Town, 2358/5, to Admty.)

Porto Bello. — An closely watching Porto Bello, 27°10' S., 48°33' W., and where A.2 reports of two unexplained visitations by night (1) July 31 by darkened ship, (2) Aug. 4 between 2200 and 0230 when darkened motor vessel heard in bay. (N.A., Rio de Janeiro, 1725/5).

Mediterranean

Operation "Hats" — Your 2057/3. (See Mediterranean Volume) Selection of targets in Operation "Hats" is at your discretion. Ref. (5) no (?) difficulty is anticipated if passage of destroyers between Malta and Galita Island is made in dark as is intended. (C. in C.Med., 1035/5 to F.O. Force H.)

War Diary

5.8.40
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (ctd.)

GLOUCESTER — Admty. 1846/26/7. Description of damage to D.C.T. and internal instruments. Can still function. Further improvement made locally would take an unacceptably long time with Alexandria resources. (C. in C., Med. to Admty., 1031/5)

Bombing of Italy — Admty. 1403/5 (see Mediterranean Volume)

VALIANT — VALIANT's 1017/4, disembarkation of 3.7 guns. Consider perfectly feasible unloading within 5 hours. Are we to expect ammunition as well as guns. If operations were delayed 3 days it would give a larger darkness period and so allow for possible delays in unloading. (F.O.I.C., Malta, 1405/5 to C. in C., Med. and Admty.)

3rd C.S. — Admty. 2019/17/7. In order to maintain continuity of nomenclature of cruiser squadrons in Mediterranean, request approval for 7th C.S. to be renumbered 3rd C.S. (C. in C. Med. 1640/5)

Submarines. — Movements of OSIRIS and REGENT. (C. in C., Med. 1641/5)

ROYAL SOVEREIGN — C. in C.E.I. 1236/3, proposed bombardment of a certain place. Remarks. (C. in C., Med., 1727/5) (See Mediterranean Volume),

Corinth Canal — My 2019/23/7. Understand Corinth Canal project is held up as C. in C., Middle East gave opinion project was politically undesirable. This opinion given without reference to me. I still consider closing of this avenue of supply to and from Italy of high importance. (C. in C., Med., 1701/5)

Air.

ILLUSTRIOUS — Admty. 1815/31. Would prefer proportion to be revised and have 21 Fulmars and 16 Swordfish if possible. Hope pilots will have had night deck landing experience. (C. in C. Med., 1745/5)

Policy — Cancelling H.Q. A.109, 4/8. Amended instructions applicable to Mediterranean now issued in accordance with your X.719, 4/8. Previous Air Ministry instructions therefore still in force in Red Sea Area. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., to Air Min., 1926/5)

F.A.A. Supplies — Re. maintenance of stores and engines for F.A.A. in Eastern Mediterranean. Pending establishment of F.A.A. Repair Depot early despatch of stocks which can be supplied to R.A.F. for major repair work on F.A.A. aircraft an early and vital requirement. (C. in C. Med., 2115/5)

War Diary

5.8.40
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Camel Corps — Admty. 2221/3, re movement of Camel Corps. Shipping is available for this move. Intend using KHOSROU for personnel and RAJPUT and NIZAM for camels. Sailings in B.N.4, D.64. (P.S.T.O., East Indies, Bombay, to D. of S.T., 0603Z/5). Camel Corps Unit will sail in B.N.4. (C. in C.E.I., 1444Z/5)

Convoy — Your 1444/4, my 0537/3. R.V. with Force Q and time of convoy passing Perim. (F.O.C., R.I.N., to C. in C.E.I., 0946Z/5)

A.M.C.'s. ARAWA. — Admty. 1406/3. Can well do with another A.M.C. Unlikely with this additional A.M.C. more than two A.M.C.'s and three "C" class cruisers normally available for protection of shipping and watching Italian Somaliland Coast. At the moment about 430 British Allied merchant ships on East Indies Station. Would like to retain WANIMBLA if requirements on other stations can wait ARAWA. (C.in C.E.I.1252Z/5)

Oiler — C.in C.China 0711/2 and my 1104/28/7. A LEAF class oiler on account of her speed would be of more use to me operationally than CLYDEFIELD Request LEAF oiler from China be sent East Indies Station when available. (C.in C.E.I. 1902Z/5).

China

DANAE. — To proceed direct to Singapore. (C.in C.,China 0321Z/5)

Family evacuation — AWATEA sailed today from Manila for Australia with 960 Army officers' and men's wives and children. Army medical officers reported ship only suitable for 800. Commodore, Hong Kong, ordered ship to sail with 960 without reference to me although informed by Consul-General, Manila, room to take those excluded by Army doctors in ship sailing two days later. (C.O.C.Hong Kong, to W.O.1938/5)

America and West Indies.

Troop Transport — Dates of sailing DUCHESS OF RICHMOND Montreal for Botwood and Halifax. (N.S.H.Q.,Ottawa, 1215/5)

Admty. 1253/3. Military desire to embark 11,150 all ranks to capacity of PASTEUR, DUCHESS OF YORK, etc., for sailing Halifax 23/8. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1251/5)

Admty. 1253/3. Re taking over of PASTEUR, early decision Ministry of Shipping essential. Has accommodation 871 officers and W.C.O's and 2,957 men. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1526/5)

War Diary

5.8.40
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia

Troop Convoys

Admty. 1845/3 and 0405/4. New Zealand requires accommodation for maximum 6,131 vide 0534/5 to A.C.N.B. Proposed shipping to be utilised, and approx. dates for leaving Fremantle of U.S.4 and U.S.5. (A.C.N.B. to D. of S.T., 1501Z/5).

My 1501/5. Proposed ocean escorts, Fast convoy U.S.4, Tasman Sea, ACHILLES and/or PERTH, as arranged between A.C.N.B. and N.Z.N.B. Bass Straits onwards to Colombo only CANBERRA. Slow convoy, U.S.5, Sydney to vicinity of Cocos Is., PERTH, from Cocos onwards, CANBERRA. Later intelligence may indicate need for increased protection in Indian Ocean. (A.C.N.B., 1502Z/5)

War Diary 5.8.1940. Monday.

GREEK MERCHANT SHIPS

ARKADIA — Arrived Istanbul from Braila with machinery medical stores, etc., from Germany. (Galatz, 1310/5)

(187) — Arrived Kobe. (S.C.I., Shanghai, 0929/5)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

DANTE — Arrived San Nicholas 19/7 (Rosario St. Fe., 1903/5)

VALDAGNO — Arrived San Nicholas 21/7. (Rosario St Fe., 1903/5)

LIBANO — (Italian prize) Boarded by CHESHIRE 43.05 N., 18.55 W., straggler from Convoy H.C. 40, short of coal and water, following convoy route. Reports sighting submarine on surface 1/8, 35° 20' N., 11.55' W., five miles away. (CHESHIRE, 1614/5)

War Diary

5.3.1940.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

SPEARFISH — German broadcast claims U-Boat successfully attacked you. Withdrew well clear of coast and report during dark hours. (V.A.S. to SPEARFISH, 1249/5)

BOMA — British, 5,408 tons, in convoy OB 193 torpedoed in position 55.44' N., 08.04' W., (VANQUISHER, 2046/5) Tug ENGLISHMAN and A/S trawler AYRSHIRE as escort ordered to position (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 2345/5, 2356/5 ENGLISHMAN sailed (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 0053/6) A/C sighted CV ON 193 in position 55.50' N., 8.11' W., at 2042. Message from destroyer, "ship torpedoes astern of convoy". Vessel low in water, BOMA, Liverpool, crew abandoning ship and being picked up by tanker, destroyers hunting. Ship sinking slowly by stern. (C. in C., W.A., 2345/5)

Submarines Reported

0528 — Aircraft reported, periscope in 59.39' N., 6.46' W., course 303° (C. in C., Rosyth, 0948/5)

0959 — Aircraft report, submarine in 59.36' N., 2.05' E., (C. in C., Rosyth, 1230/5) Course reported at 240° (C, in C., Rosyth 1306/5) Amended position 59.56' N., 2.05' E., (C. in C., Rosyth, 2002/5)

0900 — Coastguard Teignmouth reports at 0900 watcher at Labrador Cove sighted submarine which surfaced and showed periscope and part of conning tower one mile from shore and immediately submerged again. KILDREN is proceeding to investigate. Watcher reported as reliable. (C. in C., W.A., 1000/5) Orders for patrol to VANSITTART and VOLUNTEER (C. in C., W.A., 1559/5)

1820 — Aircraft reported investigating oil patch position 57. 51' N., 00.44' E. (A/C Duty Z 1820/5)

1504 — Aircraft reports one submarine unknown, 60. 03' N., 2.00' E., course 260, at 1504 (C. in C., Ros th, 1832/5)

1116 — 58.30' N., 13.30' W., 007° Rockall 52' indefinite position (D.S. App.)

/Estimate U.Boat.....

War Diary

5.8.1940.
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN Contd.

Estimated U-Boat dispositions

1 in Madeira Area moving Northwards
No recent report of the U/boat possibly in Finisterre area or of the U/boat possibly in Western Approaches
5 or 6 in North West Approaches of which 2 or 3 may be East of 10° W., one leaving Rockall to N.W. and two approaching Rockall area from S.E. and N.E.
1 in North Rona area
2 in Northern Approaches outward bound.
(D.D.I.C., 1335/5)

1250 — 35.53 N., 4.32 W., 106° Europa Point 41' aircraft sighted submerged U-Boat. (D.S. app. 336)

Submarines Attacked

0528 — By aircraft with one bomb 59° 38' N., 6° 46' W., (317° C. Wrath 30') (D.S. App 335)

1350 — U/Boat sighted by aircraft 108° Europa Point 42 miles at 1350/5. Hunt carried out with no result. (F.O. Gibraltar, 0109/6)

War Diary

6.8.1940
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Nore

Owing to low visibility all available Ships to keep steam at half hours notice till further orders. (C. in C., Nore, 0416/6) One ship of 18th C.S. and two destroyers of 31st D.F. remain at half hours notice. Cancel my 1958/5, one Destroyer at Humber to be at half hours notice day and night, remaining Forces revert to usual notice. (C. in C., Nore 0935/6 to F.O.I.C., Humber, Harwich, Yarmouth, Sheerness)

Orkneys

Your 2353/5 (A/S Trawlers to re inforce Belfast Trawler Force) will leave Kirkwall and its approaches with only two A/S Trawlers as Mobile Defence. Consider this insufficient for full security as fixed Defences still incomplete. Request reconsideration of proposed withdrawal of Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1209/6 to Adty.)

A/S Trawlers

Admiralty's 1331/5, 1404/5 1958/1, 1925/1, 1 1117/5, 1926 30th July and my 1135 31st July also operation S.N.C: in C., Rosyth 1831/5 and admiralty's 2353/5 which latter I welcome. Again most strongly urge all anti-submarine Trawlers be taken off anti-invasion duties and employed solely on A/S duties. It is becoming increasingly difficult to provide screen for all odd commitments continually cropping up and to provide proper protection for convoys. Also more co-operation required over single ship sailing, and Army requirements in regard to Shetlands becoming a heavy commitment and notice given inconveniently short. (C. in C., H.F., 1331/6 to Adty.)

Dover
Balloon Barrage

Balloon Command's 1700/1. Intend sailing 3 Drifters and Barge to Sheerness at 0800/7 with EMMC (V.A.Dover 1535/6 to Commodore Sheerness)

Recognition Signals

C. in C's to arrange for one set of local Recognition Signals for use with Coastal Batteries and for Entry to Ports, and covering the largest practicable area. A Universal ship to Shore Recognition Signal is under consideration. (D. of L.D. 1619/6 to C. in C's)

Dover

D.T.S.D. 1639/6 (See Operation Volume)

War Diary

6.8.1940.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

French Ships

Your 1825/5. Approved to pay off INGENIEUR GACHIN. Now detailed as Depot Ship LIVERPOOL for French Naval Forces in Lieu of INGENIEUR MINARD, and to be handed over to French Crew at Southampton. Proposed to replace by one Souther Railway Vessel, either HAZELMERE or STRATTON (D.S.V.P. 1621/6 to C. in C., W.A.)

Movements

Nore

Dispositions for Night 6/7 (C. in C., Nore 0812/6 and 0930/6 and 1538/6)

AMAZON

Proceed with despatch to relieve PUNJABI screening FURIOUS west of Orkneys. (R.A.D. H.F., 0910/6 to AMAZON)

DEVONSHIRE

C. in C., H.F. 1155/5. Intend sailing 2030/6. Expect arrive Greenock 1430/7 (DEVONSHIRE 0911/6 to C. in C., H.F.)

Greenock Sub-Command

State at 0900/6. (F.O.C., Greenock, 0940/6 to C. in C., W.A.)

Re-inforcement of H.W. Approaches

Adty. 2353 and 2354/5. Request STELLA CAPELLA, CAPE ARGONA, and ARCTIC PIONEER, most suitable and urgently needed for Channel Convoys, be retained and three Trawlers named in Adty. 2354/5 be allocated to Belfast instead. (C. in C., Nore, 1226/6 to Adty.)

Your 1226/6. Arrangements detailed in A.M. 2353/5 must stand as Trawlers were selected for sea keeping qualities. Request you will sail another trawler to release STELLA CAPELLA on latter's arrival at Falmouth. (D.A/S.W. 1943/6 to C. in C., Nore.)

Adty. 2353/5. Intend sail KINGSTON ANDALUSITE and KINGSTON ALALITE at 2030/7 for Spithead, continuing to Plymouth during night 8/9 (V.A.Dover 1233/6 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

/Adty. 2353/5....

War Diary

6.8.1940.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements. Contd.

Adty. 2353/5. Trawlers BLACKELY, LADY LILIAN, LADY MADELEINE, JASPER and VIVIANA to be sailed to Methil for onward routeing to Belfast with next available HN Convoy (C. in C., Nore 2351/6 to F.O.I.C., Humber and F.O.I.C. Harwich.) Request KEMPENFELT, AMAZON, ANTHONY ACHATES and ARROW latter when ready be sailed for Greenock (C. in C., W.A. 1541/6 to RAD H.F.)

A/S Escort for Floating Dock No.1

Your 1831/5. You should ask A.C.C.S. and C. in C. H.F. for any assistance you require. (D.C.D.H. 1347/6 to C. in C., Rosyth)

Dover Patrols

For night 6/7 (V.A.Dover 1555/6)

FIJI

My 1155/5. FIJI may be held at Clyde for fitting R.D/F if this can be done in very near future. (C. in C., H.F. 1801/6 to F.O.I.C., Greenock.)

TARTAR

Capt. D.6. in TARTAR, with BEDOUIN and PUNJABI, to pass Switha Gate at 1700/7 carry out A/S sweep along route, and R/V with HOOD ARETHUSA, and FOXHOUND in position D at 0700/9. (R.A.D. H.F. 1935 6 to Capt. D.6.)

A/S Striking Force in N.W. Approaches

9th D.F. and KEMPENFELT and attached H.F. Destroyers. 9th D.F. based on Liverpool will operate between 13° and 20° West, and 12th D.F. based on Greenock between 6° W., and 13° West. At least 3 ships of each group always to be in these areas ready to attack U-Boats. (C. in C., W.A., 2019/6 to D.12 and D.9.)

Operation P.H.

(Patrol off Maas and Scheldt)

My 1834/27. Operation will not now take place nightly. (H.A.S. 1512/6 to submarines)

War Diary

6.8.1940.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines

CACHALOT — My 1209/4. May be necessary to postpone sailing. (V.A.S. 1208/6 to S. 7.)

Brest — Your 1833/7/70. H. 43 patrolling off Brest. Talisman patrolling near 45° 41' N.m 1° 30' W., (C. in C., W.A., 1631/6 to Adty.)

Positions — For following 24 hours at 0600/7 in Area A (V.A.S. 1647/6) (V.A.S. 2034/6)

Neptune Approaches — It may be possible to send you 4 additional submarines at end of this month and one subsequently. Please confirm that you woul like to have them. (1st S.L. 1932/6 to C. in C., W.A.)

E-Boats

Indications of E-boats minelaying in QZS 116 at about 0015/6. (C. in C., Nore 0048/6 to Capt. H/S Sheerness)

To counter E-boat minelaying 4 M.A/S.B's to proceed to secure 2 to Aldeburgh Light Float and 2 to Sunk Light Vessel by 2300/6 To be ready to slip instantly and attack, an and to return to Base at daylight. (C. in C Nore, 1411/6 to S.O. 2nd M.A/S B. Attilla)

E-Boats suspected leaving N. Foreland at 0024/6, course 100° (C. in C., Nore 0040/6 to Captain D.20)

Indication E-Boat activity N. Foreland (C. in C., Nore 2305/6 to WINDSOR)

E-Boat reported 180° Nab 15 miles at 2300 (C. in C., Portsmouth, 2306/6 to SKATE)

/AIR.....

HOME COMMANDS

Air-British Air Activity

GNEISENAU — Between 2328/5 and 0110/6, seven A/C attacked GNEISENAU at Kiel. Eight 500 lb Bombs and twenty-six 250 lb Bombs dropped. Results not observed. (H.Q.B.C., Recd. 2245/6)

BISMARCK — Between 2326/5 and 0200/6, thirteen A/C attacked BISMARCK at Hamburg with 500 lb Bombs. Results not observed. (H.Q.B.C. Recd. 2245/6)

TIRPITZ — Between 2326/5 and 0200/6, A/C attacked TIRPITZ at Wilhelmshaven with 500 lb bombs. Results not observed. (H.Q.B.C. Recd., 2245/6)

Arming A/C with Depth Charges — Proposed that Swordfish of F.A.A. at Hatston should be equipped with Depth Charges for use against submarines. Request your remarks. (1st S.L. 0150/6 to C. in C., H.F.) Have advocated this since early days of war and in my letter of 4/8 Swordfish at Hatston seldom sight U-Boats; and I regard it as of great importance that ability to attack with Depth Charges should be extended to A/C of Coastal Command. (C. in C., H.F. 1329/6 to Adty.)

Anti-Invasion Patrols — Cancel my 1816/3, 1614/3, and 1834/5. List of anti-invasion Patrols now flown by 18 group. (C. in C., Rosyth 0250/6 to Adty.)

Bombing for Night 6/7 — Intended operations (H.Q.C.C. 1615/6)

PRU and PIU — Programme for 7/8 (H.Q.C.C. 1830/6)

Attacks on Submarines — My 2216/5. Signal by 18 Group 1832/6 suggests addition as to placing onus of identification on the submarine. (C. in C., Rosyth 1846/6 to Adty.)

Air Searc hes — Proposed for 7/8. (C. in C., Rosyth 1856/6)

/Channel Mobile.....

War Diary

6.8.1940.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Air-British Air Activity Contd..

Channel Mobile Balloon Barrage

Thames Balloon Barrage

Dover Balloon Barrage

Names and Movements of Barges taken up by D. of S.T. manned by Civilian Crews on M.N.O. 6 Articles. Request necessary Winches and Balloon Equipment may be provided. (D. of L.D. 2003/6)

At 1650/6 in 54.38 N. 0.54 E. A/c bombed 2 armed M/V's. Near misses with incendiary bombs only. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 2140/6).

Air - Enemy Air Activity

Enemy Sea Plane with reversed lights

BASSET reports enemy sea-plane seen with navigation side lights facing aft and on wrong sides and white light showing forward (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1126/6 to Adty.)

Mining

E-Boat minelaying

Indications point to E-boat minelaying in QZ5116 about 0015/6 (C. in C., Nore, 0048/6 to Capt. M/S Sheerness).

Milford Haven

Port closed owing to magnetic mines (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0105/6). Port open till sunset (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1531/6).

Enemy minelaying suspected at Milford Haven and Fishguard last night. No mines exploded today. Milford Haven closed from sunset tonight until 1100/7. Fishguard closed except for xxx cross channel traffic under certain discretions of the resident Naval Officer. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1829/6).

HOME COMMANDS

Mining (Contd.)

Bristol Channel	Ports of Swansea, Port Talbot and Britton Ferry closed. Incoming traffic being diverted to Barry Roads (N.O.I.C. Cardiff 0120/6). 4 mines detonated near Mumbles Head Light. (N.O.I.C. Swansea, 1930/6). Details of enemy minelaying heard 0015 - 0130 6/8. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1600/7).
Portsmouth	Minelaying suspected approx. 115° St. Catherines 15 miles. (C. in C., Portsmouth 0138/6).
Humber	Port closed (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1000/6). Humber open (F.O. Humber, 1256/6).
Blyth	My 2344/5. Blyth now open (N.O.I.C. Blyth 1031/6). Port closed until completion of further sweeping (N.O.I.C. Blyth, 2159/6).
Unexplained explosions	Two 240° Shoreham 1431 (N.O.I. Newhaven, 1450/6).
Falmouth	1 magnetic mine exploded 100° Rosemillion Head 11 calbes, 0840/6. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1710/6).
Booby trap	Explosion occurred when rear door of recovered mine was opened. Pending further instruction no attempt should be made to render safe German magnetic mines. (VERNON 1140/6, T & M., Adty., 1640/6 to C. In Cs. and F.O.I.Cs home, C. in Cs. Med. & N.A., R.A. Alexandria).
Complete mine recovered	Complete German moored mine and sinker brought into harbour for first time in the war. (C. in C., Nore, 1211/6 to F.O.I.C. Harwich).
Hoy	Laying of new field will start about 10/8. (R.A. Scapa 1222/6).
Harwich area	My 1920/3 fast mine sweepers will operate from daylight tomorrow. Position. Request same x arrangements for air protection as today. Code word SOLIO (C. in C., Nore, 2257/6 to A.O. C. in C., F.C.)

HOME COMMANDS

Mining (Contd.)

E-Boat Minelaying — With the object of countering E.boats minelaying activities 4 M.A/S.B's are to proceed as requisite and secure in pairs to the Aldeburgh Light Float and Sunk Light Vessel respectively, by 2300/6. They are to be prepared to slip instantly and attack, if enemy vesselsare located. Return to base at daylight. (C. in C., Nore, 1411/6 to S.O. 2nd M.A/S.B Flotilla).

Enemy Intelligence

Merchant Ship — My 2355/5. Investigate M/V reported at 2340/5 at 080° Wick 2 miles. About 7000 tons with gun on poop, and steering N. (C. in C., H.F. 0001/6 and 0040/6 to AMAZON and ASHANTI). Have searched Wick to Stronsay to depth 15 miles without success. Am continuing search W. of Duncansby Head. (AMAZON 0530/6 to C. in C., H.F.).

French and Dutch coasts — Summary of Air R/C 5/8. (D.D.I.C. 1620/6).

At 1804/6 in 56°18' N., 5°55' E., three auxiliary fishing vessels with wireless aerials and Danish flag and markings. A/c report (Donibristle 2110/6 to Adty.)

Shipping

Convoy W.S.2 11 ships — Liverpool Portion escorted by CORNWALL, HAVELOCK, HARVESTER, HIGHLANDER, and HURRICANE sailed. Speed 14½ knots. Expect arrive Freetown 1200/15 (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0130/6 to Adty.) (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 0140/6).
Clyde Portion escorted by SHROPSHIRE, EMERALD, FURY, FORTUNE, WATCHMAN, and VORTIGERN sailed 0650. Speed 15 knots. Expect arrive Halifax 0900/12. G.M.T. (F.O. Greenock, 0725/6 to Adty.)

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping (Contd.)

HUDDERSFIELD TOWN — A/S trawler. Reports herself at 55.10 N. 5.26' W. at 0630/6, course 170°, speed 11 knots, trying to overtake convoy HX.60 B. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 0831/6 to WINCHELSEA).

Convoy HX.61 — RESTIGOUCHE, VANQUISHER, and VISCOUNT to meet at 0600/8. Route. (C. in C., W.A. 0901/6 to RESTIGOUCHE).

Convoy F.S.43 — No sailing from Humber. Port closed. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1000/6).

Convoy SL.41 — Position at 1400/5 and route (V.A.N.P. 1207/6 to CHESHIRE).

Convoy — Consisting of GEORGIC, DUCHESS OF YORK, ORONSAY, and ANTONIA from Clyde and EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA from Liverpool, with Ocean Escort REVENGE, sails for Halifax (date). Five destroyers required as A/S escort, of which C. in C., H.F. to provide one and C. in C. W.A. four. C. in C., W.A. to route and sail. (D.O.D.H. 1718/6).

AMERICAN LEGION — War and Navy depts. consider proposed course too dangerous. They desire an alternative course to the North, possibly through Denmark Straits. Please cable immediate reply. (U.S.A. embassy to ~~EXPRESS~~ Foreign Office. Recd. Adty. O.I.C. 2305/6).

Intend sailing 12 ships no escort at 1900/6 for Dartmouth. Request Fighter protection till dark and from 0500 to arrival. (N.C.S.O. Weymouth, 1230/6 to Adty.)

Intend sail 15 M/V's between 1930 and 2030/6 for Portland, covered by SHIKARI and SKATE. Request Fighter cover from dawn till arrival Portland expected 0500/7. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1253/6 to R.A.F. Bentley Priory).

Convoy S.L.40 — Has arrived (D.S. 337).

Convoy S.L.F.40. — Has arrived (D.S. 337).

STORRA — British, 1967 tons, is reported detained at Casablanca by the authorities. Report dated 27/7. (D.S. 337).

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping (Contd.)

Convoy BN.2 Sailing telegram. Escort CERES, PARRAMATTA (N.C.S.O. Aden, 0414Z/6).

SC, HG, OG Convoys My 2201/3. (1) Ocean escort for S.C.1 and S.C.3 will be PENZANCE and DUNDEE respectively, who will join Liverpool sloop division on arrival at end Aug. and mid Sept. (2) Escort for Gib. convoys will be one sloop as hitherto not 2 corvettes. H.G. 42 will sail about 18/8 and subsequent HG convoys at 16 day intervals. OG convoys after OG.40 will sail at 16 days intervals. (3) It is intended when new cycles of SC. and OG. convoys are in full operation that Liverpool sloop division shall number 8 sloops (C. in C., W.A. 1528/6).

Following from Freetown to Adty. begins:-
Your 1553/4. SL.43 and SLF.43 R.V. 53°40' N. 16°20' W. 0530 after sailing 26/8.
Re 1109 from C. in C., South Atlantic 4/8 intend to sail combined convoy by route given for SL.43. Anticipate convoy will be at least 12 hours late by this route without zigzagging 1517/5 ends. (D.T.D. 1109/6 to C. in C., W.A.).

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

CITY OF CANBERRA Mined 1/8 has arrived at Tilbury in tow. (D.S. 337).

CAPE ST. GEORGE See South Atlantic.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Repatriation of French troops — From U.K. through Tangier to French Morroco. Your 1511/5. Re ferrying from Gib. But propose that ships carrying these troops proceed direct to Tangier from U.K. (F.O.C.N.A. 1158/6).

AFTE MATKOVIC — Yugo-Slavian AFTE MATKOVIC Casablanca for Oran with cargo ground nuts and now detained at Gib. Suggest permit ship to proceed to destination with minimum delay on grounds of propaganda value. Known facts shortage of edible oils on which whole French cooking relies is extremely acute at Oran and Algeria. (F.O.C.N.A. 1654/6 to Adty).

South Atlantic

DORSETSHIRE — In position 15.55 S., 07.52 W., searching to N.W. Intentions, (DORSETSHIRE, 0100/6). Amended orders (C. in C., S.A.,1011/6).

U-Boat Attack — Reported in 11.20' N., 21.00 W. (vicinity of Cape Verde Is.) (see U-BOAT CAMPAIGN)

ALCANTARA — Orders for patrol (C. in C., S.A., 1002/6).

CUMBERLAND — Orders for patrol and return to Simonstown (C. in C., S.A., 1027/6), 1144/6).

French S/M threat — French S/m, believed to be BEVEZIERS was expected to leave Libreville 5/8 for Konakri. Crew strong pro-German and anti-British and are said to have orders to sink DRAGON if sighted. Possibly this may apply to any H.M. ship. Extract from Vice-Consul, Duala's 2346/4. I consider this to be a direct threat to British shipping using port of Freetown. (C. in C., S.A., 1113/6, 1116/6).

Convoy R.S.5, MALOJA — Adty. 0032/6. Re reduction of speed to 13 knots (explained). Speed now being increased and R.V. amended. (C. in C., S.A., 1244/6).

Raiders — Information (B.3) 2 raiders out, one in Central American waters. One found by ALCANTARA was ESSBERGER, vessel now named SEE WULF was out to meet and provide other raider withsupplies off Brazil. Said that raiders were to look out for supplyships and tankers homeward bound. (B.N.A., Buenos Aires, 1535/6).

War Diary

6.8.40.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

Convoys S.L.43 SLF.43

Your 1517/5 and my 1533/4 amend time of arrival at R.V. to 0530 G.M.T. 27/8 (D.T.D. 1617/6 to N.C.S.O. Freetown).

CAPE ST GEORGE Sunk

Your 0959/5, re damage to British CAPE ST. GEORGE. No sign hulk or boat. An proceeding execution previous orders. (MALOJA, 1537/6 to C. in C., S.A.).

My 1643/6. Following received from British GRODNO, proceeding Freetown:- British ship CAPE ST. GEORGE abandoned and sunk 1752 G.M.T. with crew saved 65, expected time of arrival Friday p.m. anchor useless. T.O.O. 1825/6 (C. in C., S.A., 2200/6).

CAPE ST. GEORGE apparently collided with wreck of Yugoslav R.A.D. sunk by enemy s/m south of Cape Verde Is. at 1900/3 (D.S. 7/8).

DRAGON, BRIDGEWATER, DELHI

Re S. of S. telegram 848 to Nigeria stating Adty. agree to make DRAGON available to go to Victoria when required. As DRAGON is on way to Simonstown and is taking over escort R.S.5, request S. of S. be informed. BRIDGEWATER is based on Lagos for present, but in view of enemy submarine activity in Freetown-Cape Verde area I intend ordering her to Freetown as soon as DELHI is available to take her place at Lagos. (C. in C., S.A., 1645/6).

CANTON

Sailed for Freetown in accordance N.P.C.'s 1700/5. (F.O., Greenock, 1723/6).

Convoys

Re composition of fast group and slow group. (A.C.N.S. (F) to CORNWALL, 1942/6).

Mediterranean

Fully concur in Adty. 1403/5. This will be most helpful. (C. in C., Med., 0103/6).

Syria

Review of situation from French naval officer just returned. Emphasises anti-British propaganda. Present embargo not greatly effecting Syria except possibly as regards Kerosene. (C. in C., Med., 1103/6).

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (Contd.)

OSWALD	Asking confirmation she has been lost. (D.O.D.(F) to C. in C., Med., 1602/6).
VALIANT	Concur unload with floating crane Hamilton Wharf. Time 5 hours in harbour should not be exceeded. No delay in date of operation should be accepted solely to get longer dark period. (C. in C., Med., 1639/6).
Independent Company	Suggestion for employment in offensive raids. (A.C.N.S.(F) to C. in C., Med., 1730/6 - see Medit. Vol.)
Evacuations	Present policy to evacuate service families in every convoy to India or South Africa, but not more than 1,000,in any one convoy. Mass evacuation undesirable. (D.S.T.O., Port Said, 1921/6).
Submarines	May be possible to send four additional at end of month. Please confirm you would like to have them. (1st S.L., to C. in C., Med., 1932/6) Reply, 0947/7.
PANDORA	Arrived Malta, 2300/6 with stores and personnel for R.A.F. Base. (D.O.R.)
Convoy B.M.2.	Troops and supplies from India, arrived Suez. (D.O.R.)
Suez Canal	Adty. 0027/29/7. Canal company officials now being demobilized from Syria in general defeatist and bewildered. Leaders of anti British section referred to in my 1821/23/7 have been reprimanded by the Agent Superior. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal area. 1742/6).
Reinforcements	Ref. Adty. 1621/5. Appreciate need of these reinforcements, but must have ample notice when escort required. Will then if practicable send necessary force and be responsible for safe arrival of convoy concerned. With present destroyer strength, detachments to Red Sea will not only restrict operations but will hold up ordinary commitments of station. Do not consider scale of submarine attack in Red Sea is now serious, and Red Sea Force is well equipped against air attack. (C. in C., Med., to Adty., 2353/6).

C. in C. .....

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (Contd.)

Reinforcements C. in C., Med., 2353/6. I am not agreeable to transfer responsibility for safe arrival of convoy within my stations. (C. in C., E.I., 0510Z/7

Air

Balearic Islands 9 Italian aircraft reported landed in Balearic Islands. Another instance occurred on August 2nd. (D.S. 7/8.)

Reconnaissance A/c of F.A.A. carried out reconnaissance of Messina, Catania, Augusta and Syracuse. Destroyer sighted 6' off Messina, 4 merchant ships 8' off Catania, 3 merchant ships and possibly a destroyer inside Catania harbour. Destroyer flotilla leader seen leaving Augusta and a large merchant ship in Syracuse. (D.S.App. 337).

East Indies

Convoy BN.4 Your 1306/2 and 0648/3. Concur that first echelon of Niblick should sail in BN.4. No question of delaying transfer of KENT to Medit. Fleet therefore arises. (D.O.D.(F), 0040/6 to C. in C., E.I.).

W.S.1A Arrived. (N.C.S.O., Bombay, 0536Z/6).

ROYAL SOVEREIGN, Bombardment Agreeing C. in C., Med.'s 1727/5 that air spotting essential to get good results. Do not therefore intend ROYAL SOVEREIGN shall carry out this operations. (C. in C., E.I., to Adty., 0752Z/6).

Raider Precautions In view of possibility of raider being in the vicinity A.O.C. Far East has stationed two Singapore flying boats at Nancowry and one Sunderland at China Bay, Trincomalee. (C. in C., E.I., 1410Z/6).

COLOMBO, Somaliland To leave Mombasa p.m. 7/8 to patrol off Italian Somaliland coast, object to intercept shipping making for Mogadishu and Kismayu. (C. in C., E.I., 1436/6).

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies (Contd.)

Convoy Escorts Re convoy cycle and escorts, and requesting advice in good time re major troop movements. Not yet received such information for RS.5, WS.2, or US.4. (C. in C., E.I., 1440Z/6).

Air Raid on Massawa My 0800/5. Massawa again attacked by R.A.F. 6/8. One direct hit on submarine with 250 lb. A/S bomb reported. (C. in C., E.I., 0552Z/8).

America and West Indies

Suspicious Ship Barbados report, NORDVANGEN sighted vessel 1530 G.M.T. 4/8, 13°00' N., 63°40' W., course varying between N.W. and N., ship painted grey, about 9,000 tons. Does this resemble CITY OF CAPE TOWN, left Trinidad 3/8 for St. John, N.B.? (S.O.I., Kingston, to S.N.O., Trinidad, 0006/6). Description does not tally with CITY OF CAPE TOWN and which should have been in approx. 14°45' N., 65°05' W. at time given. No ship known to have sailed from here agreeing with description. (S.N.O., Trinidad, 0446/6).

PASTEUR TC.7 Re accommodation. Suggest second ship be provided for TC.7 in lieu of PASTEUR for this convoy. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1017/6).

HX.64 Ocean escort RAJPUTANA sailing 8/8 and returning to Halifax. (B.S.3, 1044/6).

Troop Transport W.O. report that on arrival battalion in Jamaica existing battalion will require onward conveyance to Aruba and Curacao. Request whether this can be done by local shipping, as ATHLONE CASTLE is desired to return quickly to U.K. (D. of S.T. to C. in C., A.W.I., 1256/6).

Request you will arrange onward passage of ATHLONE CASTLE, in which are embarked troops for Jamaica and naval draft for Bermuda, when escorts are available. (D.D.O.D.(F) to C. in C. A.W.I., 1257/6).

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies (Contd.)

French Shipping

Your 1224/6. General policy of H.M. Govt. is not to interfere with French shipping apart from exercised contraband control, effect of which is to prevent return of French vessels to Europe. No action is therefore being taken to prevent concentration of French merchant vessels at New Orleans. Report any action being taken by United States authorities in connection with French ships reported to be leaving Ceylon. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1902/6, to S.O.I., Jamaica).

No information that any action contemplated by U.S. authorities. (N.S.O.(I) Jamaica, 0001/7).

Chilean Ports

Govt. of Chile has modified the Decree of July 8 which forbad their ports to Aircraft Carriers and submarines of belligerent nations to apply to submarines only. (D.S. 7/8).

War Diary

6.8.40.
Tuesday.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

AMBA ALAGI
ENDERTA

Italian ship AMBA ALAGI 60, 150 tons deadweight and ENDERTA 3,450 tons deadweight, both black hulls with white line and black funnels, sailed from Yangtse entrance 0200 Z today Tuesday escorted by Japanese coast defence vessel IDZUMO. These Italian ships have their names and national markings painted out and have been numbered by Japanese J.302 and J.303; they may be expected to wear Japanese flag on arrival in Japanese waters. They are still believed to have foreign masters and Chinese crew and are loaded with coal. Request any trace of ships or crews arrival in Japan may be telegraphed. (S.O.I., Shanghai, 1209Z/6).

Her Diary

6.8.40.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

South Atlantic

Merchant ship reported sunk by s/m at 1852 G.M.T. 3/8 in position 11°20' N., 21°00' W. (C. in C., S.A., 0940/6).

North Atlantic

Press reports survivor British ship on board PALACIO. Report name of ship, date and position of torpedoing. (S.O.I., Gib., to Consul, Cadiz, 2253/6).

GOGOVALE (torpedoed 4/8) Your 1124, requesting last position of GOGOVALE (torpedoed 4/8). 0900/4 dead reckoning latitude 56.59 N., observed longitude 17.02 W. Drifting E.N.E., 2 knots. (VANOC to C. in C., W.A., 1215/6). Crew landed Liverpool, except 3 missing. (D.S. 7/8).

KING ALFRED (Torpedoed 4/8) Eight of crew missing, rest landed at Liverpool. (D.S. 7/8).

Submarines Reported

0526	51°36' N., 3°57' W.
1025	53°27' N., 3°42' W.
1345	49° 12' N., 8° 15' W.
1620	49°08' N., 8°10' W. BROKE and VANSITTART hunting. (Plymouth, 2040/6)(C. in C., W.A. 1827/6, 2013/6, 2047/6).
2109	56°30' N., 8°30' W., 330° Martin Head 78' indefinite position (D.S. App. 337).
1627	Periscope sighted 54°20' N., 1°35' E. on course 310° true (H.Q.B.C., 0200/7).

War Diary

6.8.40.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

Estimated U/B dispositions

No news of the U-boat homeward bound from Madeira area.
No indication of any U/B in Western Approaches but Brest possibly now a base.
6 or 7 in N.W. Approaches of which 2 are near Rockall between 13° W. and 17° W. north of 55° N. and 2 are east of 9° W. and the others probably between Rockall and Barra Head.

1 or 2 North Rona area.
1 about 100' N.W.N. Rona homeward bound.
1 about 60° N. 2° E. patrolling.
(D.D.I.C., 1135/6).

Submarines Attacked

Before 1740

A/S trawler PEARL carried out 2 attacks on contact in 53.26½' N., 3.57' W. A/S trawler RUBY staying on contact. No visible results but 6 explosions heard during first attack with 5 depth charges. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1740/6) Contact was non-sub. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1735/7).

1355

By aircraft H.217, 49.12 N., 8.15 W., 243° Lands End 113'. No apparent result.
(D.S. App. 337).

War Diary

7.6.40.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

In view of the difficulty of finding open water in the Nore Command for cruisers to exercise and get adequate sea time, during periods when invasion is possible, half of the 2nd C.S. and 18th C.S. are to be kept at Scapa or Rosyth and the other half in the Nore Command, one ship of 18th C.S. being maintained at Plymouth. A continual change round in rotation will provide adequate sea time and practices for all ships and will ensure that all ships of both squadrons are acquainted with the east coast channels.

Owing to enemy mining in the Firth of Forth approaches it is no longer practicable for submarines to carry out practices in this area, and they will be sent to Scapa when practices are required.

M.T.Bs.

2 M.T.Bs secured to Aldeburgh L.F. and 2 to the Sunk L.V. last night to attack enemy E-boat minelayers if met.

MOHAMED ALI EL KEBIR torpedoed

S.S. MOHAMED ALI EL KEBIR carrying 732 naval and military details, supplies and equipment from Avonmouth to Gibraltar, escorted by GRIFFIN, was torpedoed this evening, 250 miles west of Malin Head, and sank. GLADIOLUS and MALLOW who were in the neighbourhood were ordered to assist and four of the destroyers which had escorted Convoy W.S.2 to a position about 150 miles further west were also despatched. GRIFFIN saved about 600 men, including 35 wounded, and others may also have been saved.

Further examination of photographs taken by aircraft 1/8 show a U-boat at L'Orient.

Air

British Air Operations

9 Skuas attacked Dolvik (Hardanger Fiord) this afternoon. They destroyed all the petrol storage tanks and hit with a 250 lb. bomb the pumping station or refinery.

Normal patrols were flown. The morning patrols in the Eastern Channel and Southern North Sea were cancelled on account of the weather. Reconnaissance of the Norwegian coast showed nothing unusual.

War Diary

7.6.40.
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Air. (Contd.)

Enemy Air Operations

Two unsuccessful attacks were made on ships. A single enemy aircraft bombed Convoy FN.44 at 0630, 25 miles East of Spurn Point; and A.B.V. KINGSTON SAPPHIRE was bombed during the forenoon 500 miles West of Brest, the furthest point westward at which aircraft attacks on ships have so far been reported.

Mining

Minelaying was suspected off Portsmouth last night. The port was closed at 0409, the Eastern channel being reopened in the afternoon.

Enemy minelaying was suspected off Swansea last night, and a mine was exploded off Breaksea L.V. late this evening. The port was reopened to degaussed ships in the afternoon. Port Talbot and Briton Ferry remain closed; Newport, Avonmouth, Cardiff and Barry were closed in the evening, and no ships are allowed to sail eastward of Swansea.

Two magnetic mines were observed laid off Milford Haven last night and two were exploded. The port is closed from sunset until after sweeping in the morning.

Blyth is open. Hartlepool and Tees are closed on account of magnetic mines.

Mines were exploded today off Falmouth and in Belfast Lough.

Italian Hostilities

Four Blenheims covered by Gladiators today attacked store ships in Bardia harbour without results.

Two Blenheims today attacked Massawa submarine base, scoring direct hits on a naval vessel and on the quay. One Blenheim was damaged by A.A. fire.

War Diary

7.8.40.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Foreign Stations.

Chilean Decree The Govt. of Chile has modified the Decree of 8/7/40, under which Aircraft Carriers and Submarines of belligerent nations were prohibited from using their ports. The Decree now applies only to Submarines.

Defence of U.K.

Nore, readiness of ships.

Cancel my 1536/20/7, my 0935/6, and my 2159/6. Commencing today all available Cruisers, Destroyers, and Corvettes in harbour are normally to be at following notice for steam: From 0600 to 2100 at 2½ hours, from 2100 to 0600 at half an hour. Duty Destroyers between 0600 and 2100 to be at half an hours notice as follows: Harwich and Sheerness two each, Humber one. (C.-in-C. Nore 1222/7).

Kirkwall, withdrawal of A/S Trawlers.

Your 1209/6. Risk must be accepted. Full security is beyond our present means. (A.C.N.S.H. 1842/7 to A.C.O.S.)

A/S Trawlers.

Your 1331/6. No A/S Trawlers are now employed on anti-invasion duties. Matter of Army requirements for Escorts to Shetlands is now being taken up with War Office. (A.C.N.S.H. 1853/7 to C.-in-C. H.F.)

Portsmouth.

List of off-shore and Minesweeping Patrol Lines in Portsmouth Command. (C.-in-C. Portsmouth 1907/7 to Admiralty.)

Policy

2nd and 18th C.S. Proposed rotation

In view of difficulty of finding open water in the Nore Command for cruisers to exercise and get adequate sea time, it is proposed that, while invasion possible, half of the 2nd C.S. and 18th C.S. should be kept at Scapa or Rosyth and the other half in the Nore Command. A continual change round in rotation would provide adequate sea time and practices for all ships and would ensure that all ships of both squadrons are acquainted with the east coast channels.
(C.-in-C. Nore 1108/7 to Admiralty).

C.-in-C. Nore's 1108/7. Concur, except that one of 18th C.S. is to be maintained at Plymouth. (A.C.N.S. H. 1984/7 to C.-in-C. H.F, C.S.2, C.S.18, and C.-in-C. Nore).

Movements

Nore.

Humber Force
Harwich Force
Sheerness Force

Dispositions for Night 7/8.
(C.-in-C. Nore 0800/7).

Day Patrols and Movements to 1800/8
(C.-in-C. Nore 1800/7.)

WAR DIARY — HOME COMMANDS — 7.8.40 Wednesday.

Movements

Force "H" — R.A.D. H.F.'s 1935/6. My position at 0800/7, 45° 00' N., 16° 00'W., course 000° , speed 15½ knots. Request R.V. be amended to position 56. 35' N., 12.50' W. at 0700/9. (F.O. Force H., 1015/7, to C.-in-C. H.F.)

Your 1015/7. R/V has been amended. (C.-in-C. H.F. 1412/7 to F.O.C. Force H). My 1935/6. After A/S search near Rockall, proceed to R/V in accordance with F.O. Force H. 1015/7. (R.A.D.H.F.D.F. 1515/7 to Capt D.6th D.F.)

Floating Dock XII — A.C.O.S. 1616/6 and Admiralty 1404/5. Request you inform me date and time when Dock ready to leave Tyne. C.-in-C. H.F. requested provide 2 Destroyers to complete, with A/S Trawlers provided by A.C.O.S., the escort laid down in Admiralty 1404/5. (C. -in-C. Rosyth 1243/7 to F.O.I.C. Tyne).

SABRE, SCIMITAR — Intend sailing for Portsmouth 2200/7 expect arrive Nab 0500/8. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1415/7 to Admiralty) These ships sailed 2100. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 2303/7 to Admiralty.)

Portsmouth — Night movements 7/8. (C.-in-C. Portsmouth 1417/7).

Dover — Patrols for night 7/8. (V.A. Dover 1459/7).

Orkneys. — Movements for night 7/8. (A.C.O.S. 1604/7). State of A/S Trawlers (A.C.O.S. 1930/7 to Admiralty).

Patrol O. — For night 7/8. (F.O. Humber 1705/7 to PANGBOURNE).

WESTCOTT — Proceed Belfast with despatch, fuel, and meet H.G.40 escorted by WELLINGTON at 1500/9 at 53° 35'N. 16° 20'W. (A.C.W.A. 1717/7 and 1737/7 to WESTCOTT).

KIPLING — Sailing postponed 24 hours. (C.-in-C. Nore 1832/7).

GUARDIAN — Leaves Plymouth 2000/8 proceeding between Scilli s and Lands End, and through Hartland Cap. Request fighter protection till dark 8th. and from daylight 9th. (C.-in-C. W.A. 194 to Admiralty.)

WAR DIARY — HOME COMMANDS — 7.8.40 Wednesday.

Operations.

Operation P.L.

Will be carried out tonight Wednesday M.T.B's to be stationed three at the Sunk L.V. and four at Southfalls Buoy by dark. One aircraft of 16 group will stand by at Manston with 8 flares from 2200 until 0100.

The following reference positions will be used. North Foreland, Southfalls Buoy. C P W T 3545 position Q Position X Position Y.

When E Boats are detected C.-in-C. Nore will signal to 16 group a bearing from a reference position followed by two distances. This will indicate track to be flown from reference position and distances from it between which flares should be dropped.
Signal will also include time at which first flare should be dropped. C.-in-C. Nore will also order one M.T.B. unit to proceed to area indicated. It is hoped that M.T.B.'s and aircraft will thus arrive at starting point at approximately the same time.

When flares seen M.T.B.'s are to search the area illuminated.

Aircraft return to base when flares expended.

M.T.B.'s return to base at daylight.

(C.-in-C. Nore 1742/7).

Operation M.Q.

M.T.B.'s are to carry out effensive reconnaissance tonight 7th/8th from dusk to dawn with the object of ascertaining whether enemy M/V's or other craft are moving along the French coast.

M.T.B. 70 near No.1 Buoy.
M.T.B. 69 off Boulogne.
M.T.B. 5 Cap Gris Nez.
M.T.B. 6 near K buoy (5 miles North of Cap Gris Nez).

All ships encountered are to be treated as hostile and attacked. This operation to be known as "M Q" will be repeated as necessary.

(V.A. Dover 1330/7.)

WAR DIARY — HOME COMMANDS — 7.8.40 Wednesday.

Submarines.

CACHALOT — My 1808/6. Sailing postponed about 48 hours. Decision as to F.D.24 will be signalled later (7.A.S. 1154/7).

H.50 — Leaves Harwich 1400/7. Route thence (S.O. S/m's Harwich 1353/7).

H.43 TALISMAN — Your 1833/7 July. Positions. (C.-in-C.W.A. 1603/7 to Admiralty).

Positions. — In area A. for following 24 hours at 0600/8. (V.A.S. 1703/7 and 2316/7).

In area B. (V.A.S. 1704/7).

CLYDE. — Passes Bell Rock 2230/7. Route (Capt.S.4 1807/7).

E-Boats.

Operation M.P. — See Operations.

Operation P.L. — See Operations.

A I R

British Air Activity

Trondheim — A/C will R/C as soon as possible. (C.-in-C. Rosyth 0382/7 to Admiralty).

Dolvik. — 0615/7. Weather suitable. Propose 9 Skuas leave at 1400 for attack on Dolvik. (Hatston 1053/7 to A.C.C.S.) Approved (A.C.C.S.1154/7 to Hatston) 9 Skuas left 1400 (Hatston 1410/7 to A.C.C.S.) All A/C returned safely. All Petrol Storage Tanks at Dolvik destroyed and pumping station or refinery also hit by a 250 lb. bomb. (Hatston 1850/7 to A.C.C.S.)

Operations contained in this H.Q's.1615/6 are to be repeated tonight 7/8. (H.Q.C.C.1255/7 to 16 Group)

PRU and PIU — Programme for Groups A,B, and C. for 8/8. (H.Q.C.C.1830/7 to Adty.)

Rosyth — Air Searches for 8/8. (C. in C.Rosyth 1922/7

Kites from Ships near Coast. — Your 1929/3 and 1035/30. Air Ministry have been asked arrange early meeting to discuss areas and conditions in which kites may be flown by ships near coast. Your needs and proposals will be represented. (D. of L.D. 2031/7 to C. in C. Rosyth).

War Diary

7.8.40
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Air (Ctd.)

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy F.S.44. — Enemy A/C near Convoy. 3 Blenheim fighters leaving Usworth to protect. (C. in C.Rosyth 0448/7 to WINCHESTER)

Convoy F.N.44 — Attacked by enemy A/C at 0635 in 53:35' N., 1:7' E. Message received from PANGBOURNE (F.O.Humber 0655/7)

KINGSTON SAPPHIRE — Bombed in 47:28' N., 16:12' W. (Lands End Radio 0950/7)

Mining

Operation M.P. — 1. 5 destroyers under D.20 in EXPRESS will pass Humber L.V. at 1330/7 and carry out following programme.
2. 2150/7 available 70 ft. M.T.B's join destroyers at Aldeburgh L.F. and escort them to South Falls Buoy via Q.Z.S.148 to 54A Buoy thence via positions Y and X and QZS 117.
3. 2359/7 M.T.B's part company and patrol in vicinity of North Goodwin L.V. keeping lookout for E-Boats until daylight then return to Harwich. Destroyers proceed by Q.Z.F.13 and lay line A then return to Humber by route followed on outward passage.
4. Aids to navigation. (Two trawlers North Goodwin L.V.) (C. in C.Nore 0156/7)

My 0156/7. Operation M.P.is postponed until further notice. (C. in C.Nore 0941/7)

Operation M.P. will be carried out 8/8 in accordance with my 0156/7. Dates in this signal to be amended accordingly. H.Q.F.C. is requested to arrange air protection from 1330/8 until dark. Code word PARTS. (C. in C.Nore 1908/7)

My 1908/7. My 0156/7 paras. 2 and 3, for 70-foot M.T.B's read boats of 4th M.A/S B. Flotilla (C. in C.Nore 1119/8)

Falmouth — 1 magnetic mine exploded off St. Anthony Head by LL. Sweep at 101:/7 (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1735/7)

Rosyth. — My 0872/2 (re. suspected laying of parachute mines). Area swept negative result grounds of suspicion were very slight (C. in C.Rosyth, 1735/7)

Belfast. — BURLINGTON detonated mine Belfast Lough 1557/7 (N.O.I.C.Belfast 1800/7)

War Diary

7.8.40
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining (Ctd.)

Harwich — One mine exploded in sweep 51:55' N., 1;38' E. by "C". Trawler at 0945 (F.O.I.C.Harwich 1937/7)

Fast minesweepers — My 1920/3 four fast minesweepers will operate 8/8 between positions 51:47' N., 1:49' E. and 51:20' N., 1:43' E., commencing at 1000. Request same arrangements for air protection as today. Same code word for help messages. (C. in C.Nore 2227/7 to A.O.C.F.C.)

Hartlepool Tees — Closed due to laying of magnetic mines (N.O.I.C.Hartlepool 2338/7)

6th M/S Flotilla — Return to Harwich, sweeping between X and Y on the way. (C. in C.Nore 1133/7 to S.O.6th M/S Flotilla)

Portsmouth "SNAIL" — Minelaying suspected. Port of Portsmouth is closed to all shipping (C. in C.Portsmouth 0409/7, 0416/7) Port is open to all shipping entering by Eastern Channel Q.Z.3.133 and Approach Channel Q.Z.3.111 (C. in C.Portsmouth 1558/7) Code word SNAIL is allotted to Portsmouth M/S force if requiring fighter protection (D.3.O.2354/7)

Bristol Channel — Enemy minelaying suspected off Swansea last night. Ports of Swansea, Port Talbot, and Briton Ferry remain closed. (N.O.I.C.Cardiff 0942/7) Swansea now open to d.g'd. ships (N.O.I.C.Cardiff 1725/7) Ports of Newport, Avonmouth, Cardiff and Barry are closed on account of mines. No ships are to sail eastwards of Swansea. (F.O.I.C.Cardiff 2040/7) Mine exploded by LL off Breaksea L.V. (N.O.I.C. Swansea 2240 /7)

Milford Haven — Port is open (N.O.I.C.Milford Haven 1012/7) Two magnetic mines observed laid last night, two exploded today off St. Anne's Head Light. Port will be closed from sunset 7/8 until approx. 1100/8 (N.O.I.C.Milford Haven 1816/7)

Blyth — Now open (N.O.I.C.Blyth 1259/7)

Dover Straits. — Essential to reinforce shallow minefield across Straits of Dover. V.A.Dover states light and tide suitable up to night 10/11 Aug. No further delay can be accepted (D.D.O.D.(H) 1524/7 to C.in C.Nore)

Your 1133. Channel between X. and Y 50% searched by 8 ships with front of 18 cables. No mines (806th M.S.F.1510/7 to C. in C.Nore.)

Enemy Intelligence

Trondheim — A/C will R/C Trondheim as soon as possible. (C. in C.Rosyth 0322/7 to Adty.)

War Diary

7.8.40
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence (Ctd.)

Hermaness — At 0318/7 in 060: Hermaness 10 miles, one m/V course 120: with all navigation Mghts burning. Send Walrus to identify. (Donibristle 0425/7 to C. in C.Rosyth)

Norwegian Coast — From 1242 to 1318/7. Stavanger to The Naze, Coast examined, no shipping of any sort seen. (Donibristle 1630/7 to Admiralty). At 1328/7 in 61° 28'N. 5° E. two M/V's 4000 tons entering Stay Fiord, course 090° speed 8 knots. (Donibristle 1710/7).

German Main Units — No news. (D.D.I.C.1631/7).

Havre. — At 1640/7, three barges near entrance of Inner Harbour and one large ship stationary near shore N.W. of Harbour Entrance. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1898/7).

North Sea. — At 1718/7 in 55° 11'N, 4° 30'E. two Danish Fishing Smacks with Danish Flag and markings; and three more at 1726/7 in 55° 18'N 4° 54'E. (Donibristle 2150/7).

Shipping.

EVEROJA — Latvian 4830 tons sailed Dublin 6/8 for Drogheda and/or Murmansk. If met, send into British Port. (H.Q. 15 group 0305/7).

Convoy W.N.5. — 33 ships. Passes Skerryvore 0645/7 bound Cape Wrath and Pentland. (R.A.D. H.F.1112/7).

Convoy O.A. 195 — Escorted by FOWEY and CAMELIA. Due Duncansby Head 0800/8 bound Cape Wrath and Minches. Speed 8 knots. (R.A.D. H.F.1112/7). Passing Kinnaird Head. Expect arrive Cape Wrath 1730/8. (FOWEY 2156/7 to A.C.O.S.)

Six Ships. — Intend sailing Group of 6 ships, one armed Yacht Escort, at 1900/7 for Dartmouth. Request Fighter Escort. Expect arrive Dartmouth 0600/8. (N.C.S.O. Weymouth 1145/7 to Admiralty).

Convoy H.X. 60 A — Passing Kinnaird Head (SANDWICH 1645/7 to C.-in-C. Rosyth.)

Convoy O.G.40 — Escorted by ENCHANTRESS due 47° N. 18° 30'W at 1800/8. Speed 7 knots. (F.O.C.N.P. 2102/7 to CHESHIRE)

Convoy W.S. 3 — (Fast) escorted by CORNWALL and (slow) escorted by SHROPSHIRE are about 400 miles west of Ireland (D.O.R. 8/8).

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

KEMMENDINE — See South Atlantic.

KING CITY — See South Atlantic.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

CARVALHO ARAUJO — Portuguese. Passing N.A. Lisbon's 1902/6 to Adty. for information (F.O.C.N.A. 0856/7).

South Atlantic

DUN VEGAN CASTLE — Date of passing Freetown Boom. (C. in C., S.A. 1056/7).

DRAGON — To verify report at Lobito of 2 unknown submarines off Benguella at 1500/6. (C. in C., S.A. 0940/7).

French Submarines — My 1113 and 1116/6. In view of reported arrival shortly of French submarine at Konakri request you will confirm that your 259 A timed 1357/8/7 is still in force. (C. in C., S.A. to Adty. 1301/7). Confirmed (D.O.D.(F) 0100/8).

KEMMENDINE Overdue — Your 0456/22 and your 0338/23. Master of Norwegian SOLOY reports sighting derelict boat marked British ship KEMMENDINE Glasgow, in position 040° 10' S. 084° 10' E. at 1720Z/20/7. Boat was damaged apparently by shell fire, appeared not to have been occupied. SOLOY recovered compass and oars and sank boat. (S.O.I., Capetown, 1535/7 to C. in C., E.I.).

Convoy W.S.2. — Adty. 1942/6. Convoy W.S.2 reorganised, fast and slow sections. ~~Extra~~ times of arrival Freetown. (CORNWALL, 1633/7).

Shipping Routes — Amending his 1135/30/7. (C. in C., S.A. 1811/7).

Guns of Army — Loan of four 6" guns and outfits ex CORFU to Army (your 1800/1) for installation at Takoradi and Lagos approved as a temporary measure, subject to being available for reinstallation in CORFU in approx. 3 months. (D. of L.D. to C. in C., S.A. 1848/7).

KING CITY overdue — British (4744 tons) Cardiff to Colombo, arrived Durban 7/8 6 days late. (D.S. 338).

War Diary

7.8.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Submarines — Adty. 1932/6. Can usefully employ as many submarines as can be sent and would be grateful for these, particularly if of smaller type than those here at present. Submarine operations will then be extended to Western Mediterranean using Malta as a base. (C. in C., Med., 0947/7).

OSWALD lost — Adty. 1602/6. OSWALD now considered lost as she is overdue at Malta. (C. in C., Med. 0943/7).

ILLUSTRIOUS Aircraft — Your 1745/5. Additional 3 Fulmars being provided, making 19 in all, and Swordfish being reduced from 21 to 18. Only TSR pilots will have done night deck landing. (5th S.L., to C. in C., Med., 1559/7).

RORQUAL — Route instructions (V.A. Malta, 1829/7).

Spanish Aircraft — B.3 report, Spanish Sarvia bombers have been making raids on Gibraltar and British ships from Palma military aerodrome. (Consul, Palma, 1630/7).

Enemy Intelligence — 2 warships possible destroyers were sighted at anchor off Bardia at 0700/7.

East Indies

Mediterranean Convoy — C. in C., Med. 2353/6 (escort of reinforcements). Am not agreeable to transfer responsibility for safe arrival of convoy within my station. (C. in C., E.I., 0510Z/7).

A.M.Cs — Amplifying last sentence of my 1252/5. In order that I may have an additional A.M.C. as soon as possible request that KANIMBLA due Colombo 9/8 may remain on East Indies Station and ARAWA when available proceed instead to Freetown provided requirements in Atlantic allow this delay. (C. in C., E.I., 0540Z/7).

Troop Movements — Black Watch from Aden proceeding Berbera 7/8 in H.M. ship (C. in C., E.I., 0450Z/7).

War Diary

7.8.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies (Contd.)

Madagascar

My 1148/31/7 and ref Adty. 1614/2/8 British Consul Antananarivo's 1906/6 is passed on to you for information. This is no guarantee of non interference with British ships calling at Madagascar. Propose maintaining the attitude given in my 0646/27/7 para. 4 until such time as all restrictions on British Allied merchant ships are removed. (C. in C., E.I., 1436Z/7, to Adty.)

America & West Indies

Convoy

Adty. 2013/30. Request route for S.C.1 which will be ready to sail 10/8 subject to arrival of PENZANCE at Sydney by that date. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1304/7).

War Diary

7.8.40.
Wednesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

KONIGSBERG — Unconfirmed report from Rio de Janeiro states KONIGSBERG, 6466 G.T., which sailed from Para, Brazil, 28/5, has arrived safely in a German port. (D.S. App. 337).

BOCKENHEIM — German broadcast from Oslo 6/8 stated that a German freighter wich had been scuttled in Narvik had been refloated. It is known that BOCKENHEIM, 4902 G.T., scuttled herself on arrival of German destroyers on 8/4 thinking they were British. (D.S. app. 337).

NORDENHAM — Arrival August 5 NORDENHAM from Santander part cargo oil. (San Sebastian, 1850/7).

2 DOAX — Left Galatz for Black Sea. (Consul Gen., Galatz, 1123/7).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

SANTA ROSA — 3027 G.T., proceeded from Norfolk via inland waterways to Philadelphia on 4/8. (D.S. App. 337

MAR GLAUCO — 4690 G.T. expected to move from Norfolk to Philadelphia shortly. (D.S. App. 337).

LIBANO — 1592 G.T., prize, is en route from Gibraltar to England. (D.S. App. 377).

FURIERE CONSOLINI 1922 G.T.
GRANATIERE PADULA 3904 G.T. — Left Shanghai 5/8 in company with Japanese coast defence vessel IDZUMO and proceeded east. Reported chartered by a Japanese firm. (D.S. App. 377). (S.O.I., Shanghai, 0129Z/7).

CELENO — Arrived 6/8 from Batoum. (Vorna, 1623/7).

War Diary

7.8.40.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

MOHAMED ALI EL KEBIR — British, 7527 tons, Avonmouth to Gibraltar, with military and naval details. S.O.S., explosion, abandoning ship position 55° N. 15° W. (Port Patrick Radio, 2021/7). MOHAMED ALI EL KEBIR torpedoed. My position 55°22' N., 13°18 W. (GRIFFIN 2050/7). (Valentia Radio, 2059/7, 2125/7). Sinking slowly by stern, almost everyone in boats and rafts require immediate assistance. (Valentia Radio, 2118/7). Send available destroyers. (C. in C., W.A. to Capt. D.9 2142/7). GLADIOLUS and MALLOW to assist. (C. in C., W.A. 2149/7). Ship sunk. (GRIFFIN, 2240/7).
Weather permitting survivors to be transferred from GRIFFIN ordered to proceed to destination. (C. in C., W.A. 0143/8). Have recovered about 600 survivors including 35 wounded. Do not consider transfer possible. Intend proceeding U.K. after searching for further survivors at daybreak. (GRIFFIN, 0330/8) GRIFFIN reports position as 55°22' N., 13°18' W. (C. in C., W.A., 0544/8). Carry out thorough search of area (C. in C., W.A. 0619/8 to WATCHMAN, MALLOW, VORTIGERN, GLADIOLUS).

Submarines Reported

1015 — U/B reported about 080° in position 53°29' N., 00°54' E., and 53°48' N., 00°31' E. JUPITER proceeding to search. (C. in C., Nore, 1015/7).

1000 — 59°32' N., 00°58' W. 090° Fair Island 20'. Wake and smoke seen by aircraft. (B.3) (D.S. 338).

0730
0810 — 52°29' N., 0°54' E., 107° Spurn Point 27'. Submerged U/B reported independently by M/S trawler SEAMIST and fighter aircraft. (D.S. App. 337)(F.O. Humber, 0755/7). Amended position 53°48' N., 0°32' E. (D.S. 338).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported (Contd.)

(see 1620/6)	49°08' N., 8°10' W., BROKE and VANSITTART to continue hunt. (C. in C., W.A., 0123/7). If not in contact, return to harbour (C. in C., W.A. 0822/7). Request to inform TALISMAN (C. in C., W.A. 1552/7).
—	Unconfirmed U-boat reported off Pladda Island. ATHERSTONE to carry out A/S sweep on passage. (N.O.I.C., Greenock, 0140/7).
0813	Submerged S/m reported 53°29' N., 00°54' E. (C. in C., Nore, 0813/7).
1255	D.F. unidentified enemy unit 47° N., 5°10' W., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C., 1345/7). Cancelled (D.D.I.C. 1645/7).
1202	Walrus aircraft to maintain A/S patrol in vicinity 20 miles E. of Fair Island to investigate doubtful report of possible s/m. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1202/7).
2100	One s/m bearing 270° 8 miles, course 150°, 61°13' N., 1°08' E. (A/c 269 Sqdn. 2100/7).
2050	55°22' N., 13°13' W. (MOHAMED ALI EL KEBIR torpedoed).

South Atlantic

0312-0315	Roughly 300' N. Bonavista Island, Cape Verde Islands. (D.S. App. 337)(D.D.I.C. 0705/7). (D.N.I., 1051/7 to D.N.I., Ottawa, etc.)
1500/6	R.O. Lobito reports (A.5) 2 unknown s/ms off Benguella steering south. DRAGON to verify. (C. in C., S.A. 0940/7).

War Diary

7.8.40.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported (Contd.)

Estimated U/B dispositions.

1 between Cape de Verde Islands and Canaries.
Possibly 1 between Madeira and Cape St. Vincent.
1 in Lorient on 1/8.
1 100' N.W. Brest pm/6 possibly bound Brest or Lorient.
6 in North West Approaches.
Probably 1 N. Rona area.
1 passing north of Shetlands homewards.
Probably 1 100' E. of Sumburgh patrolling.
(D.D.I.C. 1350/7).

Submarines Attacked

0115 FIREDRAKE depth charged probable wreck at 0115/7 in position 58°42' N., 4°29' W. and buoyed position (R.A.D.H.F., 1112/7).

2102 A/c attacked large s/m first sighted from 10 miles distance on a course of 150 and travelling at approx. 4 knots, position 61°13' N., 00°49' E. S/m crash dived and was below periscope depth 50 seconds before bombs released. Three 250 A/S bombs fell 50 yards ahead of last seen position. First, failed to explode, fell 100 yards 3 points on port bow, second 50 yards 1 point on starboard bow, third 70 yards 3 points on starboard bow of last surface position. No oil or bubbles seen after attack. (Donibristle, 0035/8).

MOST SECRET.

8.8.1940.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

A.917 8/8. Air Ministry 1200/7. (x 26 WX 1)
Request you will arrange for aircraft to be available for Spotter Duties. Gun is being manned and operated by Royal Marines.
(Air Ministry 1015/8 to C.C.)

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Dakar.

Attack on Dakar with a view to capture under consideration. Have you any information as to possibility of landing in prevailing weather in September on north shore of peninsula where 9.8 inch guns will not bear or elsewhere in close vicinity.
(V.C.N.S. 0154/8 to C.in C. S.A.)

Your 0154/8. Information available confirms report on page 68 C.B. 1804 B volume two December 1938. Freetown British military liaison officer's opinion only possible landing place between Bil Air point and Ruf Squy on south shore, but modern batteries command this beach and approaches, and force of at least 10,000 first class troops would be required.
(C.in C. S.A. 1036/8 to Adty).

Add my 1036/8. Opinion expressed by British military Liaison Officer as to Force required was given when garrison at Dakar was at full strength and standard of morale was high before armistice with Germany. Indications that demobilization has taken place and that supplies are getting short and if the fort was silenced there is every possibility a determined attack by smaller force would be successful.
(C.in C. S.A. 1324/8 to Adty).

East Indies.

64. In view of your 0752Z/6 all 15"Gun Ammunition will be disembarked from ROYAL SOVEREIGN before sailing. Your 1816Z/1. Ship will now enter Red Sea with 50 per cent 15" and 80 per cent 6" and not 0.5" equipments.
(C.in C. Med. 1103/8 to C.in C. E.I.)

War Diary

8.8.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

More — Air R/c unsatisfactory. Groups 2,5, and 6 remain at half an hours notice till further orders. (C. in C., More 0511/8). Revert to normal notice for steam. (C. in C., More 0803/8). To-day ships normally at 2½ hours notice may be at 4 hours notice. (C. in C., More, 1127/8).

Dover — Air ministry signal 1200/7. (see operations volume).

Liverpool Fixed Air Defences — Your 2217/6. Request you will take action as suggested. (D. of L.D. 2112/8)

Policy

Liverpool Sloop Division Increase — To provide ocean escorts for SC and Gibraltar convoys intend to increase Liverpool Sloop Division to eight sloops by addition of PENZANCE DUNDEE DEPTFORD and LEITH. Two latter will be relieved in Northern escort force by JASON and GLEANER who will be relieved at Greenock by two A/ST's. This reorganisation will be effected as circumstances permit. (C. in C., W.A. 1231/8 to Adty.)

Movements

ARGUS — To proceed Liverpool for repairs and docking if necessary, and to be ready to sail with VALIANT on 20/8. (A.C.N.S.H. 0003/8 to S.O. Force H.) On arrival Liverpool 31 Hurricanes and 2 additional if spare can be found to be embarked (A.C.N.S.H. 0005/8 to ARGUS). Should arrive Bar Light Vessel 1430/10. (C. in C., W.A. 2039/8 to S.O. Force H.).

VALIANT — Should arrive Bar Light Vessel 1500/10. (C. in C. W.A. 2039/8).

More — Dispositions for Night 8/9. (More 0800/8).

ESCAPADE HOOD — ESCAPADE is to accompany HOOD to Scapa. (C. in C., H.F. 1001/8 to S.O. Force H.)

War Diary

8.8.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements (Contd.)

Floating Dock XII. — C. in C., Rosyth 1243/7, Adty. 1404/5, A.C.O.S. 1616/6, Dock will not be ready to leave Tyne till about am/20. (C.O.I.C. Tyne, 1107/8). My 1243/7 and Adty. 1404/5. As this dock will most likely be reported early on passage and and by her size and speed become centre of attraction to enemy aircraft I consider that 4 escort vessels with good A/A armament should be employed for her protection. This could be arranged if you could spare 4 destroyers to take their place on the east coast convoy. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1250/8 to C. in C., H.F.) Your 1250/8. Concur. (C. in C., H.F. 1724/8 to C. in C., Rosyth.

RENOWN — My 2336/5. C. in C., H.F. is requested to sail RENOWN for Gibraltar accordingly and provide Escort to limit of s/m zone. F.O.C.N.A. to provide Escort for approach to Gibraltar. (A.C.N.S.H. 1210/8 to C. in C., H.F.)

18th C.S. and 2nd C.S. — Your 1108/7. Arrangements for 18 C.S. are in my 1229/8. Presume you will send ships of 2 C.S. to Scapa in rotation at your convenience. (C. in C., H.F. 1233/8 to C. in C. Nore).

WESTCOTT — Your 1717/7. WESTCOTT sailed. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1400/8 to C. in C., W.A.).

Dover — Patrols for night 8/9. (V.A. Dover 1538/8).

VIDETTE — Request information as to when she may be expected to sail. (F.O.C.N.A. 1742/8 to C. in C., W.A.).

Orkneys — State of A/S trawlers (A.C.O.S. 1930/8).

ACHATES, **ANTHONY** — Sailed 2000 in accordance with your 2019/6. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2144/8 to A.C.W.A.)

ARETHUSA, **FOXHOUND** — ARETHUSA to proceed to Chatham to refit. FOXHOUND to London for docking and refit, after which to C. in C., H.F. (D.O.D.H. 1939/8 to C. in C., Nore).

War Diary

8.8.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Patrol T. To be carried out tonight by 3 destroyers from Harwich instead of Patrol O. Attention to my 1908/7. (C. in C., Nore, 1132/8 to F.O.I.C. Harwich).

Patrol O. To be carried out tonight by C.S.18, BIRMINGHAM, and 2 ships of 21st. D.F. Escort of M.A.S.Bs will join force at 2130/8 at Aldeburgh. M.T.B.s will not take part. (C. in C., Nore, 1340/8).

Operation MQ. Was carried out last night 7/8. M.T.B. 6 off K buoy sighted and shadowed one E-boat. Intend carry out operation again tonight 8/9, weather permitting. (V.A.Dover, 1333/8).
Operation cancelled tonight 8/9 on account of weather. (V.A. Dover 2044/8).

Submarines

Positions For following 24 hours at 0600/9 in area B. (V.A.S. 1706/8). In area A. (V.A.S. 1711/8, 0216/9).

H.43 Your 1833/7 July. On passage from Brest area to Plymouth. (C. in C., W.A. 1754/8 to Adty.)

SEALION Approaching Rosyth from N.E. (Capt. S.2, 2144/8 to TETRARCH). Both periscope standards lost. Blind, but expect arrive late Saturday. (SEALION 2248/8 to Capt. 3 S/m Flotilla).

E-Boats

Attack on Westbound Convoy C.W.9 Flashes, Flares, and explosions at sea. Signals from PWSS, Shoreham, Beachy Head from 0217 to 0434/8. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 0255/8, 0335/8, 0320/8, 0342/8, 0434/8 to Adty.).

PEWIT being attacked by E-boat. (C. in C., Portsmouth 0244/8 to FERNIE, BULLDOG, SALADIN, STURDY). One E-boat at 235 Beachy Head 15 miles (C. in C., Portsmouth 0241/8). One E-boat at 36°50' N., 00° E. 50 miles (BULLDOG, 0258/8 to

SALADIN.....

HOME COMMANDS

E-Boats (Contd.)

Attack on Westbound Convoy CW.9. (Contd.)

SALADIN). Convoy in 347°50' N. 00° E. 37 miles has been attacked by several E-boats. Am covering with FERNIE (BULLDOG 0315/8). Convoy still being attacked (BULLDOG 0340/8 to C. in C., Portsmouth).

From 0542 to 0550/8 A/c patrolled to 18 miles off coast at Cherbourg in unsuccessful search for E-boats. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 0830/8 to H.Q.C.C.)

Action took place 190° Newhaven 15 miles at 0220/8. WHITBY or HOME FORCE hit by bomb. FIFE COAST torpedoed. POLLY M. abandoned but crew returned to her. 2 trawlers sunk. 7 survivors landed. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 0810/8 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

FIFE COAST 367 tons torpedoed by E-boat 0230/8, 10 to 15 miles West of Beachy Head. (Trade casualties recd. 1245/8).

At least 4 E-boats sighted, probably 6 operating with slow a/c dropping flares. BULLDOG and FERNIE drove off E-boats in about 15 minutes and consider 1 E-boat sunk. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1327/8 to Adty.)

Convoy and escort concentrated at Portland and await orders. (A.C.N.S.(H) 2125/8).

A/c S.59 reports: At 1838 saw 9 M/Vs in 50°34' N. 2°18' W. At 2057 left convoy just outside Portland Harbour all stationary, HARTLEPOOL sinking. At 1824 in 50°40' N. 1°52' W. one M/V and one trawler course 360° speed 5 knots. At 1914 in 50°28' N., 2° 50' W. one M/V and one trawler course 240° speed 6 to 8 knots. At 1940 in 50°33' N., 2°12' W. one vessel sunk, tops of 2 masts visible. At 2010 in 50° 31' N. 2°20' W. one vessel sunk, tops of 2 masts visible. At 2025, one vessel sunk in S.E. corner of Portland Harbour. At 2057 one trawler 3 miles S.S.W. of Portland, course 260, speed 7 knots. At 2110 in 50° 30' N. 1°30' W. one M/V on fire. (Chatham, A.C.H.Q. 2338/8 to H.Q.C.C.). Losses see Casualties & Defects.)

War Diary

8.8.40
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Air

British Air Activity

Operations detailed in this H.Q's. 1615/6 to be repeated 8/9 August. (H.Q.C.C.1440/8 to 16 Group)

Channel Mobile Balloon Barrage. Fitting and sailing of barrage ships reflects credit on those concerned. (A.C.N.S.H. to F.O.I.C. Southampton 1833/8)

Enemy Ports R/C programme for 9/8 (H.Q.C.C.1850/8)

At 1650/8 in 54°28' N. 6°54' E. Three A/C attacked 2 armed M/V's of 1000 tons. Near misses claimed. (Chatham A.C.H.Q.2125/8)

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy PARTS (20th D.F. Returning from operation) Enemy A/C bombing. Help. Position 53°5' N. 1°E. (Capt. D.20 1620/8) Fighters being sent. (Nore. W/T 1721/8)

At 1715/8 in 52°59' N. 1°49' E. one large bomb seen to explode abaft second destroyer. A/C report. (Chatham 2034/8 to H.Q.C.C.)

One bomber dropped 2 bombs about 1 cable on quarter of second ship in the line. This was apparently not observed by Blenheim escort (D.20.1425/9).

Attack on Convoy C.W.9. Losses see Casualties and Defects.

South Goodwin L.V. When visited today South Goodwin L.V. (unmanned) was found slightly damaged by bombs and machine gunfire. The light and fog signal are out of action. (D.O.R.9/8)

Mining

Fast Minesweepers Cancel my 2227/7. These sweepers will not be operating (C. in C., Nore, 0533/8 to A.O.C. in C. F.C.).

Milford Haven Port closed owing to laying of magnetic mines (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0510/8). Port is now open until sunset (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1106/8). Two magnetic mines dropped last night and exploded today. Port will be closed from sunset 8/8 to 1100/9 (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1855/8).

HOME COMMANDS

Mining (Contd.)

Operation MP.	My 1908/7. My 0156/7 paras 2 and 3 for 70 ft. M.T.Bs read boats of 4th M.A/S.B. Flotilla.
Operation SN.13	Propose to carry out SN.13 dated 1/8 as planned except that all times are to be ½ hour earlier (R.A.M.L. 1048/8).
Rosyth	Closed between Oxcars Bank Light buoy and 2°52' W. suspected minelaying. (C. in C., Rosyth, 0219/8). Port Rosyth is closed. Anchor at Methil until further orders (C. in C., Rosyth, 0221/8 to SANDWICH, ST. LAURENT, LOWESTOFT, VIVIEN). Cancel my 0219/8. Port of Rosyth is open. Re danned channel. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1251/8).
Hartlepool & Tees	Mine detonated 54°40'18" N., 1°7'56" W. at 1258 (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1315/8). Further sweeps carried out, nothing to report (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 2020/8). Ports of Tees and Hartlepool now open. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool, 2031/8).
Belfast Lough	BURLINGTON exploded a mine 1550 (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1630/8).
Cromarty & Inverness	Ports closed. 3 further mines exploded by LL sweep (F.O.I.C. Invergordon, 1755/8).
Portsmouth	One mine detonated by LL in 50°33' N., 1°5' W. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1831/8).
Bristol Channel	Newport, Avonmouth, and Cardiff now open to D.G'd ships. Ref. my 1550/8 ships that have been D.G.'d may now proceed to eastward of Barry (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 2150/8).
C.E. Convoy	4 trawlers will be required to sweep ahead of C.E. convoy leaving Falmouth about 16/8. PMSO requested to conduct exercises of both Groups. (D.M.S. 1352/8 to C. in C., W.A.).
German Magnetic Mines	Recently discovered device in these mines necessitates either repeated sweeps, or much slower sweeps than now employed, in order to ensure detonation. Mine destruction ships are to cease operating. (D.M.S. 2154/8).

War Diary

8.8.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

3 M.Vs — Three M/Vs 4000 tons each, flying French flag, at 46°7' N., 1°40' W. course 320° (TALISMAN 1330/8 to R.A.S.).

Dieppe — At 1200/8 one ship and still blocking harbour mouth. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 1415/8).

Boulogne — 4 ships 500 to 1000 tons inside breakwater and 1 ship under 1000 tons South of breakwater. Inner Harbour looked empty. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 1415/8).

Havre — At 1615/8. No ships in harbour, (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 1850/8).

Shipping

Convoy S.L.41 — CLEMATIS to meet, and when S.L. 41 splits to escort "A" position to Methil with SKEENA. (C. in C., W.A. 0942/8).

Economy in Escorts — N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 0947/8. Itwould appear no consideration is being given to saving of escorts in movements of troops between Aberdeen and Lerwick. ST. ROGNVALD was sailed yesterday 7/8 from Aberdeen to Lerwick and now comes a request for escort for another trip on 9/8. (C. in C., H.F. to C. in C., Rosyth, N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1421/8).

EVAROJA — Latvian, still in Dublin. Am informed unofficially by Dublin agent ship placed in arrest today by orders of American Company for non-compliance of time charter. (U.K. Representative to Eire, no T.O.O./7/8).

Convoy C.W.9 — Convoy C.W.9 and escort should concentrate at Portland and await orders. (A.C.N.S.(H) 2125/8).

ORION — S.S. ORION sailed for Australia with convoy W.S.2. but returned with engine trouble. Ready to sail p.m 9/8. C. in C., W.A. to include in convoy referred to in my 1718/6. (D.O.D.(H), 2246/8).

Convoy HX.61 — Requesting ST. KENAN and ANGLE R.V. with HX.61 at 1400/9. Position and route. (C. in C., W.A., 1219/8 to F.O.I.C. Belfast). 1219/8 cancelled (C. in C., W.A., 1219/9).

War Diary

8.8.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping (Contd.)

Convoy Robin — 5 ships Dartmouth for Falmouth, escorted by ATLANTA. Orders for destroyer cover. (A.C.W.A. 2051/8).

Convoy HX.63 — Amended route instructions. (D.T.D. 1428/8).

Convoy WN.5 — 23 ships, S.O., ST. LONAN, passes Pentland Skerries noon today. BERKELEY to provide additional cover to Methil. (R.A.D., 1115/8).

Convoy OA.96 — Leaves Methil 0400/9. Close escort ROCHESTER, PRIMROSE. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1052/8).

Convoy CW.9 — To concentrate at Portland and await orders. (D.O.D.(H) 2125/8).

Convoy OB.195 — Sailed 1050/8, 19 ships, escort VANOC, HEARSEASE, GERANIUM. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1716/8).

Convoy SC.1 — Route (D.T.D. to C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1959/8).

Convoy HX.63 — Advance sailing telegram (S.C.N.O., Halifax, 1201/8).

Convoy HX.66 — Route. (D.T.D., 1429/8).

Convoy HX.65 — Amending his 1838/4. (D.T.D., 1431/8).

Convoy OB.195 — List. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1621/8).

Convoy OA.196 — List. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0559/9).

ORION — Ready to sail noon/9. Propose to sail ORION and ASTURIAS with REVENGE's convoy to limit of s/m zone. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1727/8). Approved (D.O.D.H., 1017/9).

BRITISH COAST — With cargo of aeroplane petrol for Gibraltar, ready to leave Preston 10/8. (D.O.D.(H) 2245/8).

War Diary

8.8.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping (Contd.)

Routes — To be followed by shipping to and from U.K. (cancelling Adty. 1903/26/6, 1404/30/6 last para, 1531/31/7 and 2328/30/6). (D.T.D., 1146/8).

N.W. Approaches — As enemy reconnaissance of convoys may occur in North Western Approaches, last position of ocean route will in future be approx. one night's run from R.V. Position will usually be so arranged as to cause a considerable alteration of course at dark on the last night before arrival at R.V., thus altering line of advance during night. Instructions to Commodores. (D.T.D., 1142/8, to C.O.A.C., Halifax, N.C.S.O.'s, etc.).

Jamming of Distress Signals — Adty. lettered message CL.

1. Raiders known to attempt to jam distress messages, probably using two types of spark transmitters.

2. Any British merchant ship hearing deliberate jamming of this nature should attempt to obtain a D/F bearing and make a coded report by W/T giving her own position and the D/F bearing. If impossible to obtain a D/F bearing, coded report by W/T to be made. Reports to contain strength of the jamming signal, and any fragments of the distress message received.

Reports to be prefixed "DR" as for enemy reports and to be treated and retransmitted by any intercepting ship as for a distress message. (D.S.D. 1045/8 to all British M.S.).

E-Boat Menace — Long straggling convoys vulnerable to enemy attack by E.boat whose targets are shown up by aeroplane flares. If we employ a close destroyer escort, destroyers proceeding at convoy speed probably first victims. If we employ destroyer cover and a destroyer closes to convoy when attack develops, she enters zone of E.boat smoke and firing and chances of bringing E-boats to action are small. Suggested that on being lit up by flare or on E. boat being sighted ships in convoy should make drastic alterations of course. Simultaneous production of smoke should also be considered. Destroyers covering, if not sighted E-boats before, would not close the melee but endeavour to engage E-boats retiring.

War Diary

8.8.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping (Contd.)

Balloon Convoy From personal observation of first balloon convoy, consider that present large number of ships will always be extremely difficult to keep closed up by day or by night. Latest report is that only one balloon now remains in the convoy proceeding West; probable that preliminary shooting down of balloons was in the enemy's plan of attack.
Fullest use of night coast hopping by small convoys capable of manoeuvre when threatened by E-boat a possible answer to the problem.
If this hopping went as far East as Shoreham and there were also night hops from Thames to Dover and back we would only have the E-boat to consider. If this is not acceptable from a trade aspect smaller convoys with balloons are suggested for the Portsmouth to Thames portion of the route only. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1637/8).

War Diary

8.8.40.
Thursday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

SEALION — See S/ms.

LOCH ROYAL — Sunk in collision with A/P trawler EBOR ABBEY. Crew saved. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon 0614/8 to Adty.) Position of wreck 57°47'45" N. 2°37'45" W. in 40 fathoms. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1040/8 to Adty.).

KEMMENDINE — Master of Norwegian SOLOY sank a derelict Boat marked KEMMENDINE at 4°10' S. 84°10' E. at 1720Z/20. (S.O.I. Capetown 1535/7 to C. in C., East Indies). Your 1246/8. Yes. KEMMENDINE presumed lost. Published by Lloyds 6/8. (D.T.D. 1308/9 to C. in C., East Indies).

Attack on Convoy CW.9

S.S. TRES — Rescue tug CAROLINE MOLLER has brought into St. Helens derelict S.S.TRES (Norwegian) and is still endeavouring to put out fire. Rescue tug STALWART is searching for another derelict reported near S. Eastern end of the Isle of Wight. She is ordered to return before dark if derelict not found. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1958/9) TRES sank in St. Helens Road during dark hours (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1100/10).

H.M.S. WILNA
H.M.S. RION
A/S Tr. CAPE PALLISER
KINGSTON CHRYSOBERYL
KINGSTON OLIVINE
STELLA CAPELLA

My 0107/9 H.M.S. WILNA, RION, A/S Trawlers CAPE PALLISER, KINGSTON CHRYSOBERYL, KINGSTON OLIVINE and STELLA CAPELLA damaged by bombing. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1857/9).

The following list of ships sunk and damaged is given in D.S. 339 and 340. See also DOR 9/8/40.

Name	Nationality	Tonnage	Cargo.	Fate of Ship
HOLME FORCE	British	1216	Coal	Torpedoed and sunk by E-boat. 10 survivors.
FIFE COAST	"	367	Sugar	Torpedoed and sunk by E-boats. 6 survivors.
POLLY M.	"	380	Coal	Damaged by E-boats but proceeded to Newhaven.

Contd.....

War Diary

8.8.40.
Thursday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

(Contd.)

Name	Nationality	Tonnage	Cargo	Fate of Ship
OUSE	British	1004	General	Torpedoed and sunk by E-boat.
COQUETDALE	"	1597	In ballast	Sunk by aircraft.
AJAX	Dutch	942	Wheat	" " "
EMPIRE CRUSADER	British	1042	Coal	On fire and abandoned
TRES	Norwegian	946	Not known	(See Signals)
JOHN M.	British	500	" "	Damaged by a/c. Reached Weymouth.
VEENENBURGH	Dutch	433	" "	Damaged by a/c. Reached Weymouth.
SCHELDT	British	497	" "	Damaged by a/c. (Towed into St. Helens.
OMLANDIA	Dutch	400	Not known	Damaged by a/c. Towed into Newhaven, (?Southampton).
BALMAHA	British	1428	" "	Damaged by a/c towed to St. Helens then to Portsmouth for repairs, estimated 3 or 4 days.
SURTE	Dutch	244	" "	Towed to Southampton
RYE	British	1048	" "	In collision with OUSE. In Cowes with survivors of OUSE.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

CARVALHO ARAUJO Portuguese, will be allowed to pass patrols although without ship navicert on this occasion. Request copy of manifest be given on arrival of ship at Lisbon to forward to M.E.W. (D.E.W.D. 0008/8).

Force At Gibraltar. Gibraltar arrival 0900/8, R.A.(A) in ARK ROYAL ENTERPRISE, GREYHOUND, GALLANT, HOTSPUR, ENCOUNTE (S.O.I., Gib. 0926/8). Had accompanied R Force H. to a position about 44°N.

LIDA, Escape Polish LIDA, escaped from Casablanca, arrived here today. (Consul, San Miguel, 1506/8).

South Atlantic

Future Operations V.C.N.S. 0154/8. (C. in C., S.A. 1036/8) (see Operations Volume).

French S/ms Your 1301/7 and my 0100/8. You should consider instructing Vice-Consul Duala, to bring to notice of French authorities the purport of am 0241/12. (A.C.N.S.(F) to C. in C., S.A. 1043/8).

Lobito S/m Report My 0940/7. R.O. Lobito now states from further enquiry that submarine report is not reliable. (C. in C., S.A., 0945/8).

Enemy Messages Adty. 0705/7 and 1350/7. Bearing from Gibraltar and Freetown of German message 0237/7, suggestions re position. (C. in C., S.A. 1150/8).

ALCANTARA To patrol K.33 in accordance with R.A.S.A.D.'s 2159/1. (C. in C., S.A. 1040/8).

BRIDGEWATER To complete with fuel and provisions at Lagos and remain at 2 hours' notice for steam. (C. in C. S.A., 1030/8). Cancelled, revert to 8 hours providing repairs to brick work cannot be delayed. (C. in C., S.A. 1405/8).

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic (Contd.)

French S/m BEVEZIERS

My 1113/6. R.O., Victoria, Cameroons, has received report from French S/T operator at Cape Cameroon (now in Victoria) and naval authorities Duala that BEVEZIERS is expected to return to Cameroons River today 8/8 and moor off Manokao Island. (C. in C., S.A. 1830/8).

TOUAREG

French ship TOUAREG reliably reported as sailed from Konakri 2/8 for Port Bouet and Lome with 200 Senegalese troops on board and no one else of importance. No report of final destination Duala. Master of S.S. LIBERIAN reports TOUAREG or HOGGAR arrived Tabu Ivory Coast 1500 G.M.T./5. Endeavour to obtain information of TOUAREG movements in order that she may be intercepted. (C. in C., S.A. to Governor, Nigeria, 1102/8).

Oil Supplies W. Africa

Re. your tel. No 902 6/8 to British C.G. In view of French West African, German and Italian activities I consider all supplies of furnace and diesel oil, petrol and aviation spirit to French West African colonies should be stopped forthwith to curtail movements of unfriendly warships (marauder submarines) aircraft and mechanised vehicles. (C. in C., S.A., to Governor Nigeria, 1105/8).

St. Vincent Shipping

British Consul St. Vincent has drawn attention to grave danger which exists owing to the large number of ships concentrating in that port in view of fact that U/b is probably operating in the vicinity of Cape Verde Islands. Essential that concentration of ships at St. Vincent be reduced as quickly as possible. Problems of supply at Freetown on the way to solution. Vessels which must continue to use St. Vincent for bunkers should be sailed from there at dusk and on an unusual course. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1638/8).

War Diary

8.8.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Force H. Re urgency of Operation "Hats" and docking of VALIANT at Liverpool. (D.O.D.(H) 0006/8 to S.O. Force H.)

French S/ms Asking if he can confirm that information re French submarines in Adty. 0241/12/7 was passed to Ministry of Marine and reached all French Cs in C. (A.C.N.S.(F) to C. in C., Med., 1041/8).

V.A.A. Your 1247/24 and my 2002/24. Preferable for V/A Air to hoist his flag in ILLUSTRIOUS so that he can administer and operate two Carriers and assist in expediting work ashore. Difficulty you mention as regards operating Carriers with the 1st B.S. could no doubt be regulated by local instructions. (First Sea Lord, 1044/8 to C. in C., Med.).

Operation Hats (C. in C., Med., 1055/8) See Mediterranean Volume.

Turkey Interview, Adm. Kelly and Gen Gunduz (see 9/8). Situation as regards Turkish boom defences. (C. in C., Med. 1545/8).

Aegean Sweep LIVERPOOL, GLOUCESTER and 2 destroyers have X returned to Alexandria after sweep in Aegean and Gulf of Athens. (D.O.R. 9/8).

ILLUSTRIOUS 806 Sqdn. being increased to 15 Fulmars complete with crews and 819 Sqdn. reduced to 9 Swordfish. Total 18 T.S.R.'s and 19 Fulmars, 4 of latter being reserves. (D.N.A.D., 1641/8).

French Attitude A.T. 1041/8. Proposed rules were communicated to Admiral Godfroy by letter on 14/7 and he replied 15/7 stating his pleasure and that he was cabling forthwith to Ministry of Marine. This he did at 2015/15 but has receivedno answer. (C. in C., Med., 1741/8, to Adty.)

Passages. Ratings Urgently required to send large number of ratings to Med. Requesting report on numbers which can be accommodated. (D.D.O.D.(H) to VALIANT, SHEFFIELD, etc., 1903/8).

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (Contd.)

Ammunition Requesting report on quantity of 4.5-in. H.E.T.F. ammunition which can be carried for passage. (Hd. of M., to RENOWN, ARK ROYAL, 2159/8). Reply: 3,000, now being embarked. (RENOWN, 1056/9).

Force "H" Date of VALIANT sailing from Liverpool, and request for R/Vs for ILLUSTRIOUS, etc. (D.O.D.(H), 2235/8, to C. in Cs, H.F. and W.A.).

Contraband, Canal. Re contraband for Italy or Dodecanese passing Canal, and possibility of blocking. (A.C.N.S. (F) to C. in C., Med., 2345/8) (See Medit. Vol.)

Movements Summary 140, RORQUAL, OSIRIS, PANDORA, PROTEUS, destroyer escorts, VENDETTA, PROTECTOR. (C. in C., Med., 1429/8).

Air

Spanish Bombers Tel. 57, 8/8, from Consul, Scanlan. Am informed from trustworthy source that raids by Spanish manned bombers continue (my 1630/7). Political atmosphere remains rather tense. (Palma, Mallorca, 1945/8).

Operations M.E. Operational Summary 60. (No naval items) (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1627/9).

Air Raid on Mersa Matruk A single a/c bombed Mersa Matruk today. No damage was caused (Air Min. D.S. 387).

East Indies

KANIMBLA Approved to remain on East Indies Station (D.O.D (F) 0007/8).

ROYAL SOVEREIGN Ammunition charges before entering Red Sea. (C. in C., Med., 1103/8). See Operations Vol.

Raider Possible that enemy raider has entered Indian Ocean from Red Sea passing Perim 2300Z/1/8.

Description....

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies (Contd.)

Raider (Contd.) — Description. Greek flag painted on hull. Intention may be minelaying. (C. in C., E.I., 1726Z/8). My 1726 resulted from a ship passing Perim patrol apparently wrongly identified as Greek PETRAKIS NOMIKOS, which was expected to be in that vicinity at the time. (C. in C., E.I., 1728Z/8 to Adty.)

KEMMENDINE, overdue. — Inquiry regarding fate from Governor of Burma. Presume now considered sunk or captured. (C. in C.E.I., 1246Z/8) Yes, presumed loss published by Lloyds 6/8 (D.T.D. 1308/9).

COLOMBO — Date of arrival of COLOMBO at Mombasa. (C. in C. E.I., 1524/8).

Madagascar — Your 1436/7 approved, but consideration must be given in the case of intercepting troopships as each arises. (D.T.D., to C. in C., E.I., 1642/8).

Djibuti — Shipments of warlike stores including petrol and oil to be prevented from reaching Djibuti if possible. (Hd. of M., to C. in C., E.I., 1930/8).

CHANTALA — Left 2000Z for Berbera. (N.O.I.C., Aden, 2001Z/8).

Air

Zeila Bombed — My 0345/8. On assumption that enemy fighters may have operated from Zeila, Walrus was flown off after attack and at 0530Z dive-bombed Zeila residency, now believed to be military H.Q. Two 112-lb. bombs dropped within 40 yards. Machine gunned other military targets. Enemy replied with M.G. and Lewis guns. Walrus returned undamaged at 0700Z, two bullet holes in wing. (HOBART, 1234Z/8).

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies - Air (Contd.)

Attacks on Berbera

Air attacks at 0315, 0945 and 1050 G.M.T./8 at Berbera. First attack in harbour in addition to attack on R.A.F. bombers on ground, one of which was destroyed. Second attack eight medium bombs landed between HOBART, AUCKLAND and AMBER, nearest bomb 150 yards from AMBER. No damage. A/c visible few seconds only, height 9,300 ft., not engaged. Third attack result by three bombers. HOBART and CHAKDINA straddled by 11 bombs, nearest miss 40 yards. Very minor damage from splinters. A/A fire ineffective. (C. in C., E.I., 1442/8, 1916/8).

China

KANIMBLA ARAWA

Approved for KANIMBLA to remain on East Indies Station. C. in C., China requested to sail ARAWA for Freetown on relief by "D" class cruiser. (D.O.D.(F) 0007/8).

Suspicious Signals

Capt. O.S., Singapore 0439/9/7 reports Swedish CANTON heard broadcasting suspicious plain language signals on 21/5 during period of 12 days when the ship was said to be cruising off Java awaiting orders. Master and W/T operator could not be interrogated at Capetown. Ship due U.K. shortly. (S.O.I., Capetown, 1030/8).

Convoy WS.2

Adty. 2205/4. Asking if any of the 2100 children in ORION, STRATHEDEN and BATORY are destined for Singapore. (F.O.C., Malaya, 0917Z/8).

Evacuees

My 7545, 22/7 and 7632, 2/8. AWATEA sailed from Manila afternoon 5/8. Details of military families embarked. (C.O.C., Hong Kong, to C.G.S., Melbourne, 2030/8).

Italian Ship Transfers

Your 0525/23. While we still adhere to principle that transfer of these Italian ships to Japanese flag does not affect our right to seize them in prize, considered to be inexpedient in present circumstances to attempt interception of of any of these ships in an area where such action might lead to an incident with a Japanese warship. Ships should not therefore be intercepted. (Hd. of M., approved 1st Lord, 2055/8, to C. in C., China.)

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

Suspicious Ship My 0006/6. Further description. At time of sighting NORDVANGEN course 100° 7 knots, the other 315° approx. 10 knots 1½ miles distant. Stranger first turned 045° towards, then 045° away, continued varying course between 315° and 000°. (S.O.I., Kingston, 0926/8).

ATHLONE CASTLE Requesting whether sailing from U.K. for Halifax on 10/8. (C. in C. A.W.I. 0932/8 to Adty.).

SUMATRA My 1251/18/7 (intended search for raider). Netherlands cruiser SUMATRA due Trinidad and Freetown (dates). (C. in C., A.W.I., 1232/8).

RHAKOTIS My 1516/23/7. Callao reports Chilean Govt. authorities Duncan Fox deliver 700 tons Diesel oil. British Embassy Santiago de Chile endeavouring to prevent delivery. (S.O.I., Kingston, 1726/8).

Canadian Fish-boats Your 0947/25/6, re Canadian fishboats. If 5 can be requisitioned or purchased will be of great value at Trinidad or Jamaica. Trained C.O. and one S.D. rating for each boat can be sent. (Hd. of M. to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2113/8).

Convoy T.C.7 Possible additional ships available. EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA taking place of ATHLONE CASTLE in movement to West Indies in my 1253/3. Request every endeavour be made to make PASTEUR ready. (D. of S.T. to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 2211/8).

Australia

Troop Transport A.I.F. British freight ship ULYSSES with 140 troops embarked left Melbourne 06302/7 for Durban. (A.C.N.B. 04252/8).

War Diary

8.8.40.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

UPWEY GRANGE sunk — British 9130 tons. Believed sunk in 54.40 N., 15.00 W. Look out for boat. (C. in C., W.A. to CLARKIA, WARWICK, etc.) Inward bound independently. 22 survivors in VANQUISHER, which is searching for 2 missing boats (D.O.R. 9/8) D.S. 339 states position of attack believed to be 55.3 N. 13.53 W.

SSSS 53° N. 15°21' W., torpedoed (Intercepted by LACONIA 1120Z/8. FOXHOUND detached to assist. Her position course and speed 53.49 N., 15.48 W., 115°, 22 knots. (FOXHOUND, 1500/8). Have detached VANQUISHER to hunt (RESTIGOUCHE, 1505/8). Report did not refer to LACONIA but to another ship whose S.O.S. was re-transmitted by LACONIA. (C. in C., W.A. 2017/8 to FOXHOUND).

Submarines Reported

1412 — 51° N., 8° W. Indefinite position (D.S. 339).

Estimated U/B dispositions:

1 about 250' S.W. Teneriffe northbound.
Possibly 1 in Western Approaches.
6 in North West Approaches, one or more of them between Rockall and 55° N.
Possibly 1 N. Rona area.
1 in about 59° 30' N. 2°35' E. course about 150°.
Possibly 1 patrolling between 60° N., 2° E. and Fair Island.
(D.D.I.C. 1227/8).

Submarines Attacked

Search for assailant of MOHAMED ALI EL KEBIR (torpedoed 7/8). Carry out thorough search of area. (C. in C., W.A., 0619/8 to WATCHMAN, etc. GRIFFIN met at 0700 in position 055° 20' N. 013° 10' W. GRIFFIN returning to harbour. WATCHMAN and VORTIGERN continuing search. At 0800 shall search to northward if nothing found shall aim to join you at 1600 in position 055° 10' N., 013° 0' W. (WATCHMAN, 0745/8 to D.9).
Carry out thorough search for U/B with ships ~~xxx~~ available until necessary to return to harbour. HAVELOCK and one of 9th D.F. are required to refuel at Clyde and sail am/10/8. (C. in C., W.A. to D.9 1244/8).

Doubtful.....

War Diary

8.8.40.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Attacked (Contd.)

Doubtful contact investigated for 2 hours in position 055° 11' N. 012° 58' W. 30 depth charges dropped with no visible result. HURRICANE is remaining in vicinity until daylight. Am continuing search withremaining 4 destroyers. (Capt. D.9 2140/8).

War Diary

9.8.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Notice for Steam — My 1222/7 for the present normal notice for steam cruisers destroyers and corvettes in harbour between 0600 and 2100 is to be 4 hours. Should it be necessary for ships to be at shorter notice owing to unsatisfactory air reconnaissance signal will be made. (C. in C., Nore, 1024/9 to N.O.I.C. Humber., N.O.I.C., Harwich C.S.18, C.S. 2., Capt D.5., Capt. D.16., Capt.D.21., F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, Cdre. Sheerness.

Shetlands — See Mining

Movements

ERIDUS — Sailed escorted by Trs. ANGLE and ST. ELSTAN (N.O.I.C. Belfast 0911/9 to C. in C., W.A.)

AURORA — Proposed programmes are. Leave Rosyth p.m. 21, arrive Humber a.m./22. (C. in C., Nore 1014/9, 1135/9)

BARHAM — Now regarded as fully efficient (C.in C., H.F. 1245/9)

C.S..2 — Your 1233/8 (Ships to return to Scapa in rotation) Yes. (C. in C., Nore 1435/9 to C. in C., H.F.)

VALIANT — Keep clear of convoy escorted by VANOC. Position etc., (C. in C., W.A., 1451/9)

5th D.F. — My 1937/5 (Additional destroyers for C. in C., W.A.) 5th D.F. is for the present to keep 4 ships at the disposal of C. in C., H.F. These are to be relieved in rotation for boiler cleaning, maintenance and general duties on the East Coast. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1822/9)

Channel Mobile Balloon Barrage — B. of L.D. 1954/9 see Air.

War Diary

9.8.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Operation P.J. (Maas Scheldt Patrol) My 1444/31. Operation P.J. to be repeated tonight. (C. in C., Nore 1231/9 to S.O.M.T.B'S Felixtowe., R.A. (S) 1528/9) Your 1231 Weather conditions unsuitable (S.O.M.T.B's Felixtowe 1653/9 to C. in C., Nore) Cancel my 1528 (R.A.(S) 1827/9)

Sweep off Dutch Coast Seven M.T.B's leave Harwich about 2000/9 for Sweep off Dutch Coast, returning about 0700/10 (C. in C., Nore 1240/9 to STORK etc.,)
Note Presumably refers to Operation P.J.

E-Boats

One enemy M.T.B. 180° Beachy Head 6 miles (Portsmouth W/T 0420/9)

Aircraft reports large number of boats at 2155 in 51° 58' N., 2° 35' E., (C. in C., Nore 2319/9 to CARDIFF, Capt.D.16.)

Submarines

H.50 Orders to proceed with despatch at 2200/10 to waiting position 52° 8' N., 3° 5' E., (S.O. submarines Harwich 1155/9)

H.34 Orders to leave patrol 2200/10 (S.O. S/M's Harwich 1157/9)

Positions & movements for 24 hours at 0600/10 (Area A (V.A. (S) 1707/9) Area B (V.A. (s) 1708/9)

STURGEON'S Report 1239/4 in 53° 15' N., 4° 35' E., unsuccessfully fired 3 torpedoes each at two 600 ton merchant ships one in tow escorted by 3 armed tugs. Escorts dropped depth charges, no damage. (V.A. (S) 2114/9)

War Diary

9.8.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

Shipping in Norwegian Fiords to be attacked

When weather is suitable propose sending Sorties of 3 Skuas each to harass shipping in Fiords between Haugesund and Bergen, but should specially favourable weather conditions develop propose a squadron attack by daylight on Dale Viaduct instead. (Hatston 1215/9 to A.C.O.S.)

Approved (A.C.O.S. 1321/9)

Intended Programmes

for night 9/10 Aug. (H.Q.C.C. 1635/9)
Programme for 10/8....
Group A.

1 Kiel, Wilhelmshaven, including Schilling Roads to locate shipping.

2 Aalborg, Aerodrome and to locate shipping.
3 Fredericksharen to locate shipping
4 Calais-Boulogne with reference to heavy transport in connection with gun emplacements, and large scale of emplacements (oblique)
5 Amsterdam, Den Helder to locate shipping.

Group B.

1 Cherbourg, St. Malo to locate shipping and damage to oil tanks at Cherbourg.
2 Brest to locate shipping, and ascertain activity at seaplane base and aerodromes.

Group C.

1 Oslo Fjord including Frederistad, Larvik and Tonsberg to locate shipping.
2 Stavanger, Trondheim to locate shipping and activity on aerodromes. (H.Q.C.C. 1930/9)

Depth Charges

Your 1328/6. Depth charges have been supplied for aircraft of Coastal Command and are available for any shore based aircraft requiring them. (5th S.L. 1750/9 to C. in C., H.F.)

D.C's are recommended for use against submarines by shore based aircraft. Supplies have already been made to C.C. and can be extended to other Commands if required. (5th S.L. 1815/9 to Air Min.)

War Diary

9.8.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity, Contd.

Ant-Invasion Patrols — All anti-invasion patrols cancelled tonight owing to weather (C. in C., Rosyth 1758/9)

Calais Dunkirk — P.R.U. sortie shows no change (P.I.U. 1815/9)

Bomber Command Operations — H.Q.B.C. 2055/9. (~~Examined~~ Summarised in Situation Report)

Channel Mobile Balloon Barrage — Sail Channel mobile balloon barrage vessels now at Portsmouth to Southampton for replacement of balloons (D. of L.D. 1954/9)

Dieppe Boulogne Dunkirk — No activity observed outside, no A.A. Fire (Chatham 1320/9)

Enemy Air Activity

Attack on Convoy C.W. 9. 8/8 — One M.V. smouldering 50° 29' N., 1° 18' W at 0655 hours. 6 M.V. approx 1500 tons each Nab at 0700 course 180° 12 knots, 5 destroyers Neb 0519 hrs. 315° 20 knots (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 0845/9)

1120 hours 50° 37' N., 0° 51' W., 1 small rusty abandoned M.V.
1128 hours 50° 30' N., 1° 10' W., 1 small abandoned M.V. giving off grey smoke in tow 1142 hours position 180 Needles 400 yards floating wreckage, phots taken. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1300/9)

VIVACIOUS — 2 aircraft circling 51° 30' N., 1° 20' E., (VIVACIOUS 2240/9) Aircraft dropping flares bearing 280° (VIVACIOUS 2244/9)

Dover. Barrage Balloons — Were machine-gunned by aircraft during p.m./9 (D.C.N.S. 10/8)

War Diary

9.8.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

	Mining
Blyth	Port closed until completion of further sweeping (N.O.I.C. Blyth 0218/9) Blyth now open. (N.O.I.C. 1159/9)
Liverpool	Port Closed (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0240/9)
Bristol Channel	Port Talbot and Briton Ferry now open to D.G. ships. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 0945/9) Swansea is now open to all ships. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1050/9) Swansea closed to ships which have not been degaussed. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1637/9) Mines by A/A 161° 2.4 miles Mumbles Ho. Lt. (N.O.I.C. Swansea 1650/9)
Milford Haven	Port is open (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1114/9) port is closed until about 1000 10/8 (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven. 2156/9)
Cromarty & Inverness	Now open to all ships. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1150/9)
Night Sweeping	Probable that enemy will make further attempts to mine convoy channels on East coast using the lengthening nights. It will probably be necessary to introduce search sweeping at night on these channels so that the channels are searched shortly before the convoys pass through it. Groups of trawlers are to be excercised at night in carrying out a search sweep. (C. in C., Nore 1108/9 to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth and Humber.)
Portsmouth	Western Channel is open to all shipping (C. in C., Portsmouth 1539/9)
Belfast	Re Adty. 2154/8 sweeping operations on ranges suspended until further notice. Arrival of further sweepers being accelerated when work will be resumed on range. (Cdr. Withers, Belfast 1600/9)
Shetlands	Re controlled minefield (A.C.N.S. (H) 2000/9)

/Operation M.P.....

War Diary

9.8.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining, Contd.

Operation M.P.

Reinforcement of shallow minefield across Straits of Dover. 20th D.F. to pass Number L.V. 1330/10. Navigational aids. M.T.B's to provide cover since it has been found they are suitable for close escort work. 3- 70 ft M.T.B's from Harwich to patrol on silent engines between Ruytingen Pass Light Buoy and Dunkirk. N.O.I.W. Light and whistle buoy until 0300/11 then return to base. If weather unsuitable for M.T.B's but suitable for minelaying operation will be carried out without them. H.C.F.C. to arrange fighter protection from 1330/10 until dark. Code word PARTS. (C. in C., Nore., 2226/9)

Fast Sweeping

Four fast sweepers will operate 10/8 from 51° 55' N., 1° 46' E., to 51° 47' N., 1° 49' E to 55° 20' N., 1° 43' E and return, commencing 0500. Code word SOLLO (C. in C., Nore 2257/9)

Enemy Intelligence

At 2155/9 a large number of boats at 51° 58' N 2° 38' E., and at 2310/9 a large number of lights at 51° 55' N., 1° 30' E., Aircraft report (C. in C., Nire 0139/10 to VIMY and VIVACIOUS)

Rotterdam

PRU Sortie on 9/8 shows 4 medium steamers have left (PIU 0330/10 to N.I.D.)

Havre
Ostend
Dieppe
Calais

P.R.U. Sortie on 9/8 shows no shipping activity (PIU 0330/10)

A/S Sweeps

STURGEON reports in N.i. a daily and nightly sweep by 3 A/S Trawlers using trainable Detecting Apparatus, parallel to and 6 to 14 miles from coats, and one small Coaster using similar Apparatus. Also reports that at p.m./6/8, 24 Fishing Vessels swept STURGEON searched Channel and dropped 12 depth charges indiscriminently. (V.A.S. 2114/9 to Adty.) Your 2114/9. Request you will consider carrying out a sweep to destroy these Trawlers and Fishing Vessels (A.C.N.S. N. 1316/10 to C. in C., Nore.)

Brest

7 ships of about 5000 tons each were reported in Brest on 9th. (D.C.N.S. 10/8)

War Diary

9.8.40.
Friday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

KERTOSONO — Dutch, captured by German Raider (See South Atlantic)

KEMENDINE — Cancel my 1308/9 Re your 1246/8 KEMENDINE presumed lost. (D.T.D. 2011/9 to C. in C., E.I.)

SPEARFISH — SPEARFISH sailed from Rosyth 1930/31/7 for 59° 07' N., 03° 22' E.,. On 2/8 SPEARFISH was ordered to proceed so as to be near 58° 30' N., N. 05° 40' E., during the night of 3/4 August to attack coastal shipping. GA German broadcast on 5th August claimed that SPEARFISH had been sunk by a U-Boat and that there was one survivor. This sinking had been claimed in a broadcast 2/8 without naming the submarine. SPEARFISH was ordered on 5/8 to withdraw from the coast and report during dark hours. No report was received. On 6/8 SPEARFISH was ordered to return to base where she was due a.m./9th. No signals have been received from her since she proceeded on patrol and it is regretted that she must be presumed lost. (V.A. (S) 1054/9)

SS ASHBURY — Left Milford Haven 26/6 for Alexandria has not yet reported passing. Presume vessel is intended for B.N. Convoy(C. in C., E.I. 1040/9)

SS STARCROSS — British (4062/tons) Bombay 14/7 for Durben overdue since 2/8 (D.S. 339/) Arrived Durban 8/8 (D.S. 340)

KINGFISHER — Steam Trawler Beached. Forehold full of water and pumps damaged. Lifeboat standing by. Master's report. (Seatrans, Falmouth 1020/9 to Transport)

War Diary

9.8.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

ZA Convoy "PADDY" "HARRY"

Admty. 1718/6. Routes from Clyde and Liverpool for convoy and escort sailing 10/8 (C. in C., W.A. 1409/9) Convoy to be known as ZA Code words for fighter protection, Paddy, and for Liverpool section Harry. (D.C., 2245/9)

OA 196

Orders to KING SOL and AYRSHIRE to R.V. at 1600/11. (C. in C., W.A. 1603/9)
Destroyers to provide additional A/S cover. (R.A.D. H.F., 2156/9)

Channel Convoys

5 large M.V. to sail at 2100. Escorts, and requesting air escort until arrival at Portland. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1753/9)
Orders for air escort (H.[illegible]., F.C. 2338/9)

C.W. 9. Convoy not to be sailed till further orders. Ships of C.W. 9 convoy bound westward and others waiting to clear English Channel at ports to westward of an including Portsmouth are to be sailed by night, hopping from port to port. C. in C's requested to arrange for covering escort. (D.T.D., 1532/9)

HX 61 B
OB 196

Orders to escorts ARSENAL and LEEDS UNITED (C. in C., W.A. 2019/9)

VIDETTE

Route to Gibraltar, escort VIRGINIA (C. in C., W.A. 1721/9)

FN and FS

Forecast of convoy sailings FS 49-55 and FN 50-56, with escorts (C. in C., Rosyth 2222/9)

HX 61

Position at 0800 and orders to escort (C. in C., W.A. 1159/9)

PULASKI

Polish. (See South Atlantic)

GOTEBORG

Swedish. My 1925/28. Germans have given safe conduct to proceed from Lerwick to 71° 30' N., 18° 00' E., thence to 71° 30' N., 32° 00' E., thence to Petsamo. Request early information date of departure that Berlin may be informed. (N.A., Stockholm 1557/9)

/OA 196.....

War Diary

9.8.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping, Contd.

OA 196 — Sailed 0400/9, 44 ships, 5 for Clyde (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0541/9)

LANTI — Finnish 616 tons left Swedish territorial waters 3/8, is reported seized by Germans. (D.O.R. 10/8)

Economy in Escorts — C. in C., H.F. 1421/8. You should obtain from Military programme of troop movements to Lerwick over as long a period as possible and inform me. Destroyer or A/S Trawler escorts necessary for these troopships and which can only be provided by C. in C., H.F. or A.C.O.S. are difficult to provide and if possible two or more ships should be sailed in company to economise. (C. in C., Rosyth, 0747/9. to N.O.I.C. Aberdeen.)

Your 0747/9 and C. in C., H.F. 1421/8. No efficient arrangements possible at Aberdeen under preset conditions. No previous exact knowledge of troop movements until within 36 hours. Suggest arrange definite sailings every 10 days, covering leave period and casual embarkation of all services, or alternatively to base 2 fast A/S vessels at Aberdeen. Either would alleviate present uncertain request for escorts. (N.O.I.C., Aberdeen 1321/9, to C. in C., Rosyth.)

Air Liaison — Your 1215/9. Messages concerning sailing and arrival of convoys already passed but in order that A.C.H.Q. may keep H.Q.F.C. fully informed of movements consider that an R.A.F. Movements Liaison Officer constantly on watch is required at A.C.H.Q. (C. in C., W.A. 1957/9 to Admty.)

Eire. Precautions — Master GREAT WESTERN on return from Waterford today reports Irish Military Authorities again removed striker of 12 lb gun while in harbour. This action hitherto confined to the Waterford Military Command but Master now informed that order will be extended to the whole of the Free State. Also informed that Authorities will remove different part of gun on each occasion as they had no doubt that Naval Authorities in England would provide new striker. Action is to avoid danger of gun being used against themselves but did not specify potential enemy either as British, German or I.R.A. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2009/9)

War Diary

9.8.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping, Contd.

E-Boat Menace

C. in C., Portsmouth's 1637/8. Considered that if suitable escorts are provided there should be no occasion for convoys of 25 ships in two columns to straggle unduly. Experience of East Coast described. By day considered that no destroyers other than HUNT class are suitable for escort. Conside ation is being given to issuing instructions for avoiding action by ships in convoy in the event of E-boat attack, but necessary to keep the convoy together so that fighter protection may be afforded. Night sailings from Thames to Dover not possible owing to lighting restrictions. (C. in C., Nore, 1521/9)

My 1637/8. Views based on experience of Destroyers and officers with convoy. Risk to destroyers or close escort emphasised. Considered that destroyers are suitable neithe as close escort nor as cover of convoys against E-boats, other than for the moral effect of their presence. Requirements for close escort described.

Air Attack:

In the air attack three fighters first attacked each balloon, all of which were shot down within a minute, after which the dive bombing was unhindered. No dive came below 2000 feet into effective Lewis gun range.

(C. in C., Portsmouth 2053/9)

War Diary

9.8.40.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

CASTILLO BELLVER — Re detention of M.E.W. agrees to ship being boarded in Straits and released after identification of cargo. Master to be informed shipments from French North Africa considered as enemy exports since 31/7 and consequently liable to seizure but as his ship sailed prior to 31/7 she is being allowed to proceed (F.O.C.N.A. 1256/9, D.E.W.D. 1828/9).

Gibraltar — Description of German A.A. defence tactics, for information. (W.O., to Governor, Gib., 78374 M.O.2, 8/8, recd. Adty. 2205/9).

South Atlantic

Raider, Dutch Capture — C. in C., Dutch East Indies, learnt from Rotterdam Lloyd agent at New York that Dutch S.S. KERTOSONO has been captured 1/7, 1200, by German raider. With 15 men armed guard conveyed to Lorient, France. Arrived there 18/7. Comment: KERTOSONO 9289 tons gross, sailed Curacoa 24/6, due Freetown 5/7, estimated speed on passage 12½ knots. Captured 1/7 in estimated position 10° N., 34° W. (Dutch N.L.O. to Adty., no T.O.O./9). (D.D.I.C. 1836/9).

HAWKINS
BALTAVIA — In view of raider situation HAWKINS will not visit Falkland Islands. As she is out of service fuel sail BALTAVIA for sea rendezvous Orange. BALTAVIA to visit Montevideo to complete with Diesel oil before returning to Falkland Islands. Until arrival of BALTAVIA, HAWKINS to L.32 (b) K.32 (d) K.33(c) moving as necessary to keep abreast of concentrations of British shipping. (R.A.S.A.D. 1413Z/9).

DELHI
DUNVEGAN CASTLE
Convoy SL.43
Oiler RAPIDOL — Movements, positions, and orders as to routes. (C. in C., S.A. 11552/9).

PULASKI — Polish. If owner's intention to send ship to Lisbon for refugees, consider this permit undesirable, as more than probable ship would ..... be seized by agents of Compagnie Cyprien Fabre. Similar action attempted at Freetown. Suggest she proceeds direct U.K. in Convoy SL.43, leaving Freetown 11/8. (C. in C., S.A., 1820/9 to Adty.)

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic (Contd.)

Lobito, S/m report — Lobito, DRAGON arrived 8/8 and sailed 9/8. Your 0945/8, submarine report, after investigation consider report due to mirage. (DRAGON, 0930/9).

Mediterranean

V.A.(A) ILLUSTRIOUS — Observations on Adty. 1044/8 re V.A.(A) hoisting his flag in ILLUSTRIOUS (C. in C., Med., 0925/9).

PRESIDENT DOUMER B.S.3. — Propose using PRESIDENT DOUMER in convoy B.S.3 to embark ex Egypt for Cape Town for onward passage approx. 290 R.N. personnel urgently required in U.K., vessel then proceeding Bombay. (D.S.T.O. Port Said 1032/9).

Turkey — Discussion with General Gunduz re British inaction in Somaliland, Roumanian uncertainty, and influence of strong Mediterranean Fleet. (Adm. Kelly to Adty. 1512/8, recd. 2025/9).

7th C.S. — Approving 1640/5, 7th C.S. to be renumbered 3rd C.S. (Hd. of M., to C. in C., Med., 1709/9).

Air.

Raid on Tobruk — Shipping in Tobruk Harbour bombed 1830/9. One ship 400 ft. long set on fire by 4 hits, jetties and oil tanks also hit. (D.S.341).

Benghazi — Air reconnaissance reported 2 destroyers and 12 large ships in harbour and 3 s/ms at sea 10 miles to the westward. (D.S.341).

Derna — 4 ships 350 ft. long reported by air reconnaissance in Derna Harbour. (D.S. 341).

War Diary

9.8.40.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

S.S. ASHBURY — British ASHBURY which left Milford 25/6 for Alexandria has not yet reported passing. Presume vessel is intended for B.N. convoy. (C. in C., E.I., 1040Z/9).

ROYAL SOVEREIGN — On assumption that C. in C., Med. will sail ROYAL SOVEREIGN from Suez on or about 12/8, proposals of C. in C., E.I., for onward passage to Durban are approved. N.O.I.C. Simonstown requested to arrange to dock vessel at Durban on or about 30/8. (D.O.D.(F) 1751/9).

B.S.3 — Adty. 1839/29/7. Request whether convoy B.S.3 will evacuate service families from Middle East to Indian. Date of leaving Suez. (C. in C., E.I., 0802Z/9).

Somaliland — Proposed to off-load guns, ammunition, stores and personnel from convoy R.S.5 for employment in Somaliland. Request whether guns can be landed Berbera. (A.C.N.S.(F) to S.O., Red Sea, 1055/9). Cancel my 1055/9 (A.C.N.S.(F) 1956/9).

Port Conditions Berbera — Situation in British Somaliland makes heavy call on Red Sea Force for transport and escort of troops equipment and stores to Berbera. H.M.Ships providing A/A Defence afloat and Lewis gun and crew ashore. Local labour gang disappears during daylight from fear of air raids, so ships companies are providing working party for unloading, also crew for tugs and lighters. HOBART has borne brunt of work most creditably. CARLISLE probably relieving HOBART 10/8. (C. in C., E.I., 1950/9).

Red Sea convoys — Intended to run B.N. (Northbound) convoys every 15 days. Bombay portions will be sailed, according to their speed, so as to pass Aden every 15 days, and Aden portions will join Bombay portions off Aden. B.S. (Southbound) convoys will leave Suez about 6 days before B.N. convoys arrive Suez. (C. in C., E.I., 1606Z/9).

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies (Contd.)

COLOMBO, Mogadishu — My 1436/6. Reports (not assessed) received that Italians getting sugar through Mogadishu. COLOMBO to patrol off this port until necessary to leave to comply with my 1524/8, shipping in Kismayu being reconnoitred on passage to Mombasa. (C. in C., E.I., 0808Z/9).

S.S. KEMMENDINE — Your 1246/8. KEMMENDINE presumed lost. Communique issued in Rangoon yesterday. (D.T.D. to C. in C., E.I. 2011/9).

Dhow Recaptured — C. in C., E.I., reports that a British dhow arrived Aden p.m. 8/8 from Zeila, the native crew having thrown the Italian armed guards into the sea during a sandstorm. (D.O.R. 10/8).

Air

Massawa — Bombed 0900/9, direct hits being obtained on shore objectives. (D.S. 341).

China

River Gunboats — Decision to withdraw troops from Shanghai and North China brings the position of gunboats again under review. If gunboats to be withdrawn considered late September best time. Question of SEAMEW at Canton different as she can return to Hong Kong if required in a few hours. It is certain however, that once the Gunboat leaves Canton it will prove very difficult to get her back again. (C. in C., China, 0449Z/9 to Adty.)

ILE DE FRANCE — Your 0853Z/3. Crew of ILE DE FRANCE are if possible to be repatriated by Japanese ship sailing shortly to Lisbon. Japanese ship may, if thought advisable, be asked to call at Casablanca. Colonial office are instructing Governor. Decision as to ILE DE FRANCE itself not yet taken. Hd. of M. 2259/9 to C. in C., China.)

FOREIGN STATIONS

China (Contd.)

Troop Withdrawals — In order to effect withdrawal from Shanghai Tientsin and Peking of British troops stationed there request that shipping be provided as quickly as possible for movement Tientsin and Peking to Shanghai. Vessels should not call at Hong Kong en route from Shanghai to Singapore. Passenger vessels within range appear to be TANDA, NELLORE, KUM SANG, SHIRALA, ANSHUM. (D. of S.T. 2310/9, to C. in C., China.)

America & West Indies

KER TOSONO — Capture by raider en route from Curacao (see South Atlantic.)

Newfoundland Defence — Investigation by CARADOC. Serious deficiencies. Examination services, batteries, etc. and formation of Newfoundland R.N.V.R. suggested. (C. in C., A.W.I. 1316/9).

Martinique — Situation, Martinique and Guadeloupe 28/6 - 18/7, information from Governor, Windward Islands. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1616/9).

Suspicious Vessel — Cruising in 54°30' N. 26°0' W. enemy merchant ship type trailing us course 270° (S.S. VOCO 1752/9, 1757/9). My 1752/9 Position is 54°20' N. 26°40' W. Vessel now disappeared after trailing us on various courses steering about 250°. Somewhat similar Hansa cargo liner about 6000 tons, possibly Dutch ships - description (S.S. VOCO 2030/9). LACONIA to investigate. (D.C. 2150/9).

Australia

Dutch Ships — Adty. 0132/8. Report of action taken re Dutch NIEW HOLLAND and requesting information re other Dutch vessels. (A.C.N.B., 1703Z/9).

War Diary

9.8.40.
Friday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

NORDMEER — Left Vigo 1/8, arrived San Sebastian 5/8 from Santander. (D.S. 339).

LUVSEE — Left Split 7/8 for Trieste with bauxite (D.S. 339).

GOSLAR — Scuttled 11/5 at Paramaribo, reported can be easily salved. (D.S. 339).

RHAKOTIS — British firm, Duncan Fox, authorised by Chilean Govt. to deliver 700 tons Diesel oil at Antofagasta. (D.S. 339). My 1726/8. Duncan Fox refuses to supply except at express wish Chilean Govt. when only sufficient to reach next port of call. (S.O.I., Kingston, 1638/9).

ITHAKA — Left for Black Sea (Consulate-General, Galatz, 1123/7).

KARPFANGER — Reported probable arrival at Holtenau on 11/8. (D.S. 340).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

GERARCHIA — Island of Crane, C.V. anchored with cargo of maize, anchorage precarious owing to seasonal southerly swell. Trying to sell cargo locally, will have ultimately to run for St. Vincent, Dakar or other sheltered port. (Consul, St. Vincent, 1129/9).

CELENO — Leaving Varna, due Batoum 10/8. (Vice Consul, Varna, 0940/9).

CALABRAI — Due to arrive Vizagapatam 19/8, presumably in prize. Was seized at Calcutta 11/6. (D.S. 340).

PIETRO CAMPANELLA — Left Norfolk, Va., for Baltimore 8/8 (D.S. 340).

MAR GLAUCO — Left Norfolk, Va., for Philadelphia 8/8. (D.S. 340).

War Diary

9.8.40.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

0045 — MEDINA patrol yacht, reported unidentified vessel 1 mile, sighted off St. Albans Head, thought conning tower of s/m, proceeding S.W., disappeared suddenly when challenged. (F.O.I.C., Portland 1042/9).

Estimated U/b dispositions.

1 in vicinity Canary Islands Northward bound.
1 in Western Approaches.
6 in North Western Approaches, mainly North of 55° N.
Possibly 1 in N. Rona area.
(D.D.I.C. 1145/9).

Mediterranean & East Indies

Submarines Reported

-/9 — Portuguese S.S. SAN MIGUEL from Azores, arrived Lisbon 10/8, reports stopped by Italian U/B 200' off Lisbon, 38°10 N., 13°40' W. (D.S. 341).

War Diary

10.8.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

Use of burning petrol and/or fuel. Immediate consideration to be given to employment as anti-invasion measure. (C. in C., Portsmouth 0127/10 to F.O.I.C. Portland, Southampton, Newhaven, Poole, R.N.O. Shoreham, Littlehampton). Your 0127/10. In view of far-reaching consequences, request no plans be approved without reference to Adty. (A.C.N.S.H. 1610/10 to C. in C., Portsmouth).

Destroyer Situation Unsatisfactory state of JAVELIN and JAGUAR is due to interruption of 5th D.F. boiler-cleaning by damage to KASHMIR and JACKAL and by continued defects of KIPLING. Situation also complicated by non-arrival of WATCHMAN, VORTIGERN, BERKELEY, and GARTH. Adty. 1325/27/7. (C. in C., Nore 1420/10 to C. in C., H.F.). Your 1420/10. Re destroyer position at Scapa. (C. in C., H.F. 2306/10 to C. in C., Nore).

Movements

ROSEMARY To join Western Approaches Escort Force (D.O.D. (H) 1041/10 to C. in C., W.A., C. in C., Portsmouth).

SHEFFIELD Repairs complete midnight 10/8. Will proceed to Tailof the Bank pm/11 (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1107/10).

CAIRO Delayed 24 hours by defective electric circuits (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1209/10).

FEARLESS Most unlikely she will be able to sail in accordance with my 2235/8. Request a relief destroyer may be detailed. (D.O.D.(H) 1340/10 to C. in C., H.F.).

ACTIVE Intend sailing her pm/15 (C. in C., W.A. 2022/9).

FIJI Intend sailing FIJI for Scapa 2030/10 (F.O. Greenock 1234/10). Request Air A/S escort (C. in C., H.F. 1951/10 to C. in C., Rosyth).

Nore Command Day patrols and movements (C. in C., Nore, 1200/10).

ARETHUSA To take FOXHOUND under his orders and sail both for Nore for docking and refit as in Adty. 1939/8. C. in C., Rosyth and C. in C. Nore requested....

HOME COMMANDS

Movements (Contd.)

ARETHUSA (Contd.) — requested to provide A/S Air Escort. (C. in C., H.F. 1129/10).

FRANKLIN — Intend sail 0800/11 on completion of Hydrographic instruction No. 8/40. Expect arrive Grimsby 1100/12. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon, 1530/10 to Adty.).

Harwich Destroyers and Corvettes — Disposition night 10/11 and movements to 1200/11. (N.O.I.C., Harwich, 1653/10).

TITANIA HOLDERNESS — To leave Rosyth 1400/11. TITANIA and escort to Belfast. HOLDERNESS to be detached to Scapa after passing Cape Wrath. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1831/10).

VETERAN AMBUSCADE WORCESTER — Leave Harwich 1941/10. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1944/10 to Adty.)

Dover Patrols — For night 10/11. (V.A. Dover, 2035/10 to Adty.)

DUNCAN — Steering gear unreliable. My position 58°7' N. 5°56' W. Intend to close Rona Island at daylight. (DUNCAN 2313/10 to Capt. D. 4th D.F.).

Channel Mobile Balloon Barrage — Your 1929/9. Request you sail tugs MENAI MAMOUTH and INDEFATIGABLE to Falmouth for fitting with Balloons. (A.C.N.S. 1921/10 to C. in C., W.A.).

Operations

Patrol T. — Will be carried out tonight instead of Patrol O (C. in C., Nore, 1141/10 to F.O.I.C. Harwich, R/D.16, D.20).

Iceland — My 0202/19/7, your 1302/27/7. Have now visited Akureyri and Seydisfjord. Consider that Observation Mines should be laid as soon as possible on following lines which will be covered by guns. Personnel can be maintained. (F.O.I.C. Iceland, 1142/10) to Adty.)

War Diary

10.8.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations (Contd.)

Exercise BUSTER — To test inter-Service co-operation and communications in event of Hostile landings on coast of Great Britain will take place from 0700/12 till about 1900/14. Instructions for. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1518/10 to C's in C.).

Brown Ridge Patrol — Will be carried out tonight by 3 destroyers. (R.A.S. 1536/10).

A/S Operations in N.W. Approaches

1. Decided to carry out offensive operations by day and night with air and surface craft combined against U-boats operating in North Western approaches during next three weeks.

2. TITANIA is being ordered to Belfast as depot ship and headquarters. She sails for Rosyth tomorrow 11/8.

3. Capt. Ruck Keene is being lent to C. in C. W.A. for charge of the operations and A/S, Signal and Operationnal staff officers are being appointed to TITANIA.

5. All available A/S officers are being lent temporarily to C. in C., W.A. for duty in hunting ships. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1828/10).

Submarines

H.34 — Own surface forces are operating to westward mine barrage tonight 10/8 to 11/8. Do not pass western limit gap E until 0500/11 (S.O. S/ms Harwich, 1157/10 to H.34). Proceeding unescorted on surface. Due Position Z from Eastward at 0600/11. (C. in C., Nore, 1300/10 to Capt. D.20). Capt. D. 20 will be passing through Position Z at 0300 from Southward. (C. in C., Nore, 2020/10 to VEGA, WESTMINSTER, and SHELDRAKE).

CACHALOT — Will not be required to proceed before 12/8. (V.A.S. 1411/10 to S.7).

Positions — For following 24 hours at 0600/11 Area B. (V.A.S. 1636/10). Area A. (V.A.S. 1638/10).

War Diary

10.8.40.
Saturday.

HHMMe COMMANDS

Air

British Air Activity

Le Havre M.V. attacked — R.C. report. Nothing seen in the harbour. Attacked a 3,000 ton M.V. outside. Results not observed (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 1300/10).

Reports of lights, suspicious vessels etc. off Dutch coast and in Southern North Sea. — Five separate reports received during night 9/10 August between 2150 and 0045 hours from night bombers reporting large numbers of boats or suspicious vessels or lights off the Dutch Coast and in Southern North Sea. Reports from bombers may be of utmost value and importance. In present circumstances if Captains of bombers see suspicious vessels or lights it is their first duty to investigate fully and report at once in accordance with Air Min. signal X.93 of 8/6. Crews of aircraft should understand the far reaching repercussions of their reports and the dangers of inaccurate information. (Air Min. 1301/10 to Bomber Cmd.)

New Visual Signals — A 359/10/8, 1313/9. Unable agree proposed instructions. Consider no new Visual signals should be introduced unless discussed and co-ordinated by Visual Signal Board. Suggest early meeting of Visual Signal Board to discuss. (Air Min. 1850/10 to Adty.)

Air Searches — Intended for 11/8. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1922/10).

PIU and PRU — Programme for 11/8. (H.Q.C.C. 2040/10 to Adty.)

Searches for U-Boats — To get more information about the present habits of U/bs I would like you to arrange in collaboration with 18 Group for routmine searches by Swordfish from Hatston with the following centre line. From Hatston to point A at 60° N. 4°30' W. thence to Point B at 61°25' N., 0°40' W. and return, fuelling if necessary at Sumburgh. Searches to be flown twice daily passing through Point A at 0500 and 1700. This task for the present to be given priority over retention at short notice of a torpedo striking force. If practicable at least three aircraft to be detailed for each search proceeding on parallel track about centre line A-B. (C. in C., H.F., 2327/10 to A.C.O.S.).

Ems River — 4 a/c dropped magnetic mines in the Ems River during night 9/10. (D.C.N.S. 10/8).

Air (Contd.)

Enemy Air Activity

F.S. Convoy	Air raid on F.S. convoy, odd numbers, imminent. (More W/T 1751/10 to Rosyth W/t).
HAULERYK	Dutch, 3278 tons, reports bombed 0650/10 in 51°54' N., 5°45' W. Near miss, and requires repair before proceeding. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1903/10 to Adty.). Not in convoy no casualties. (D.S. 342).
Convoy HG.40	One a/c over convoy at 55°4' N., 11°44' W. (WESTCOTT 2051/10).
	One enemy a/c. My position 52°8' N., 2°8' E. (VETERAN, 2157/10).
LEEDS UNITED	British trawler. Attacked by 2 a/c at 1810/10 in convoy OBM.196 at 53°38' N., 4°30' W. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 2325/10 to Adty.)
Convoy OBM.196 attacked. BLAIRCLOVA	53°38' N., 4°30' W. BLAIRCLOVA, British, (5083 tons). damaged by bomb. Have ordered her to return to Home Waters. (LEEDS UNITED 1930/10 to N.O.I.C. Milford Haven). (N.O.I.C., Milford Haven, 2325/10, 0139/11).
FERNIE	Large number of Enemy a/c. My position 50°21' N. 1°14' W. (FERNIE 2315/10).
VARIA	Ex-Swedish (929 tons) attacked by a/c 1900/10 about 60 miles S.E. of Fastnet, 10 survivors landed in Scilly Is. (D.S. 342).

Mining

Blyth	Closed till completion of minesweeping about 1200/10. (N.O.I.C. Blyth, 0001/10 to Adty.) Now open. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 1200/10 to Adty.)

HOME COMMANDS

Mining (Contd.)

4 Fast Sweepers will operate 10/8 from WH.0347 to WS.0384 and return. Operation commences 0500/10. Arrange Fighter protection. Code Word XX SOLLO. (H.Q.F.C. 0430/10 to 11 Group).

Liverpool — Port closed. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 0600/10 to Adty.) Now open (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1404/10).

Barry, Newport, Avonmouth, Cardiff — Now open to all Ships. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1015/10)

Milford Haven — Port now open. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1131/10 to Adty.)

Explosions — 4 large explosions stretching 200 yards seen 200 yards from convoy at 1245/10 in 53°43' N. 0°40' E. A/c report. (Chatham, A.C.H.Q. 1555/10 to H.Q.C.C.).

Swansea, Briton Ferry, Port Talbot — Now open to all ships. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1836/10 to Adty.)

VERSATILE — My position 51°29' N., 1°22' E. Mines dropped 328° ½ mile, 270° 1½ miles, and 318° 2 miles. (VERSATILE 2310/10 to C. in C., Nore). (C. in C., Nore 0039/11 to Adty.) (C. in C., Nore 1011/11 to Adty.)

Falmouth — One red mine detonated at 1040/10 at 146° Pendennis 4 cables. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1840/11 to Plymouth).

War Diary

10.8.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Walcheren — A large number of Ships off Walcheren at 0030/10 (C. in C., Nore 0139/10 to VIMY and VIVACIOUS) My 2319/9 (C. in C., Nore, 0141/10 to CARDIFF)

Flak Ships — At 0750/10 in 51° 54' N., 3° 50 E., 16 Flak ships. Aircraft report (A.C.H.Q., Chatham 1130/10) Ships in 3 lines of 5, course 200, speed 7 to 10 knots. (H.Q.B.C. 0232/11)

Danish Smack — At 0928/10 in 55° 8' N., 6° 30 ' E., one Danish Fishing smack with special W/T apparatus operating. (Donibristle 1310/10 to Adty.)

Three Smacks — At 0940/10 in 57° 9' N., 6° 32' E., three fishing smacks, course 196° speed 2 to 3 knots in heavy sea. (Donibristle, 1335/10 to Adty.)

Fishing Boats — At 1345/10 at Lemvig in 56° 34' N., 8° 19' E 15 to 20 fishing boats in harbour, and 8 or 9 more in harbour at 56° 20' N., 8° 10' E., (Donibristle 1825/10 to Adty.)

German Main Units — No change (D.D.I.C. 2027/10)

Unknown Enemy Unit — At 2109/10 in 55° 20' N., 4° 50' E., D/F reliable fix. (D.N.I. 2158/10 to C. in C., Nore.)

Coen to Harbours — No activity along coasts (H.Q.B.C. 0232/11)

Ymuiden — At 2356/10, five miles West of Ymuiden, 25 lights observed, believed stationary. (H.Q.B.C., 1830/11)

War Diary

10.8.1940.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Z.A. Convoy — WATCHMAN and VORTIGERN to escort Z.A. until ASHANTI and HAVELOCK available to relieve them. (C. in C., W.A., 0838/10)

HX 68 — Route, and escort orders. (C. in C., W.A., 1002/10)

4 M.V's "PEWIT one" "PEWIT two" — Intend sailing 4 large M.V. at 2000/10 escorted by DANEMAN and WELLAND for Plymouth and 7 small M.V. escorted by A/S trawlers KINGSTON ALALITE, KINGSTON ANALUSITE and GRENEPLY for Dartmouth. Request fighter protection both groups from 0500 till arrival HARPE and STUNDY will provide cover for both groups during night. (F.O.I.C., Portland, 1135/10) Code words Pewit one for Plymouth portion. Pewit two for Dartmouth portion. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1647/10)

O.A. 127 — Leaves Methil 0500 to-morrow 11/8, close escort ST. LAURENT, HIBISCUS, ST LAURENT to be relieved vicinity of Skerry Vore by LEITH. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1132/10)

H.X. 65 — Intend sailing VOLTAIRE as ocean escort 12/8, returning Halifax (F.O.C. 3 B.S. 1133/10)

H.X. 61 — CATTISTOCK to meet and provide additional A/S cover to Pentland Firth (R.A.D. H.F. 1151/10) Expected arrive Cape Wrath 2000 eastbound (A.C.O.S. 1620/10) Position, course and speed. (RESTIGOUCHE, 1710/10) Weather conditions not suitable for embarking pilot for H.X. 61. during dark hours. (N.O.S.O. Mersey, 2310/10)

O.A. 126 — Off Stornoway 2300/10 southbound (A.C.O.S. 1620/10) Passing Cape Wrath (ROCHESTER, 2014/10)

3 M.V's "CLOAK" — Intend sailing 3 M.V's at 2000/10 escorted by SCIMITAR, SKATE, ROSEMARY (if ready) and A/S trawler BASSET for Portland. Request air cover. Codeword convoy "CLOAK" (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1647/10)

/ O.B.136....

War Diary

10.8.1940.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping. Contd.

O.B. 126	Escort to part company at dark 14/8 and convoy to disperse noon 15/8 (C. in C., W.A. to SCARBOROUGH 1759/10) Orders to escort on parting company. (C. in C., W.A. 1759/10) R.V. as amended (C. in C., W.A. 1856/10) Sailing date amended (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1450/10)
"Harry"	Sailing delayed until 0400/11. Amend R.V. to 1500/11. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1838/10)
Economy in escorts	C. in C., Rosyth's 0747/9 arrangements for co-ordinating shipments of army and R.A.F. stores and personnel to Orkneys and Shetlands and for cooperation with C. in C., Rosyth do as to achieve maximum economy in escorts. Personnel sailings to Lerwick will not normally be more frequent that at 10 day intervals. (D.O.D. (H) to C. in C., Rosyth. 2008/10)
S.L. 41 Charts	Estimate position 2000/10. (C. in C., W.A. 2326/10 to CLEMATIS) Requesting that all ships leaving U.K. possess chart of Scotland Irish Sea, Halifax, Sydney (Cape Breton) and Bermuda. (N.C.S.O. Bermuda 1229/10)
H.X. 64	R.V. escort RASPUTANIA (D.T.D. 1445/10) sailing telegram Admty. 1728/10)
Convoy ZA	In view of increase in size and HAVELOCK's ASDIC out of action propose using WATCHMAN and VORTIGERN as escort in lieu of HAVELOCK (C. in C., W.A. 1507/10)
Convoy MF 1	Sailing date, route, ships, escort (N.C.S.O. Famagusta 1900/10)
O.A. 199	Route etc., (C. in C., W.A. 1004/10)
S.C.s.s. KEMPENFELT	R.V. date amended, 27/8 (D.T.D. 1236/10 to C.C.A.C., Halifax.)

War Diary

10.8.1940.
Saturday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

FEARLESS — Have been in collision with British FLYING WING at 225° Mull of Cantyre 7.5 miles. Port side damaged and docking probably necessary. Am proceeding to Clyde. (FEARLESS C312/10 to C. in C., H.F. (N.O.I.C. Glasgow 1228/10 to Admty.)

FLYING WING — at 0100/10 A/S Patrol Trawler. In collision with British destroyer at 55° 14' N., 5° 59'W badly damaged above water forward. (N.O.I.C. Larne 1540/10 to Admty.)

CALEDONIA — (Damaged in air attack 8/8 on Convoy C.W.9) taken by tug to Southampton. (D.S. 340)

EMPIRE CRUSADER — (Damaged in air attack 8/8 on convoy C.W.8.) Capsized, still burning bottom up (D.S. 340)

YOUNG SID — H.M. Drifter sunk off Tarbet Ness at 1000/10 after collision with collier THE DUKE. Crew landed at Invergordon. (F.O.I.C., Invergordon 1622/10 to Admty.)

ATLANTIC } TRADER } — Overdue. (See South Atlantic)

CERAMIC } TEISTRAIN } — In collision at 27° 15' S. 10° E at 0250 and 0323/11. Badly holed and require assistance. N.O.I.C. Simonstown 0703/11 to CUMBERLAND) CUMBERLAND at daylight 12th will try tow CERAMIC stern first to Walvis. Tug being sent from Capetown to help. Passengers being transferred to VICEROY OF INDIA. TEISTRAIN, damaged bow, proceeding to Capetown with BRITISH VISCOUNT in company. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1932/11 to Adty.)

TUNA — 946 tons, damaged in convoy C.W. 9 on 8/8 sank St. Helens Roads during Night 9/10. (D.S. 341)

ARLEUX — Milford Haven 27/6 for Capetown, due 2/8 arrived Durban 10/8 (D.S. 342)

War Diary

10.8.1940.
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Cable Repairs

Required to divert Italian Lisbon-Malaga cable into Gibraltar and to repair fault in cable and wireless Lisbon-Gibraltar No. 2 Ninety-one miles out of Gibraltar. Both operations to be undertaken by MIRROR. She should then cut Italian Las Palmas- St. Vincent cable, near Las Palmas and return to Gibraltar. (D.S.D. to. F.O.C.N.A., 1349/10)

Portuguese Request

Minister of Agriculture has ordered that 45000 tons of Phosphates from Casablanca be shipped in Belgian steamship to Lisbon middle July. Belgian cannot sail detained. Minister of Marine enquires whether arrangements could be made to allow Portuguese ship proceed Casablanca load this cargo and proceed to Lisbon direct. Phosphates urgently required for Government purposes. (N.A. Lisbon 1146/10)

Spanish Phosphates

Admty. 1638/9 Spanish CASTILLO BELLVER boarded in Straits and allowed to proceed p.m. 9th. (A.C.N.A. 1638/10)

Air

Gibraltar Raids

My 2306/9. Raids on Gibraltar 18/7 and 26/7 were considered to be carried out by Italian SAVOIA 79. No reason to believe they were Spanish. Attacks on Force H at sea were carried out by Italian aircraft. (S.O.I. Gibraltar, 1254/10.)

South Atlantic.

GERARCHIA

Repeating Consul, St. Vincent's 1129/9, re Italian GERARCHIA, Cape Verde Islands (see 9/8) (D.D.I.C., to C. in C., C.S.A., 1043/10)

TOUAREG

De Gaulle representatives anxious no incident should take place which might prejudice their negotiations. Operation to intercept TOUAREG should therefore be suspended (A.C.N.S. (F) to C. in C., S.A., 1733/10)

DORSETSHIRE

To return to Freetown forthwith. (C., in C., S.A. 1106/10) Your 1108 at 0800 zone plus 1 tomorrow (time of arrival outer and searched channel) (DORSETSHIRE, 1530Z/10)

/CUMBERLAND.....

War Diary

10.8.1940.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

CUMBERLAND — On completion of repairs to exchange disposition with DORSETSHIRE, who will proceed Durban for half yearly docking. (C. in C., S.A. 1112/10)

Overdue Ships — KINDAI departure 6/7 from Cardiff for Calcutta via Cape, not reported. TREVARRACK due Durban 6/8 from Milford not arrived. (S.O.I., Capetown 1118/10, 1128/10)

BRIDGEWATER — Orders to intercept TOUAREG (C. in C., S.A., 1240/10) Cancelled, to remain at Lagos (C. in C., S.A., 1638/10)

Coaling, Freetown — Request ships informed not more than 250 tons of coal per vessel available at Freetown Certain exceptions. Undesirable owing to U-boat activity in Cape Verde Island area to send ships to St. Vincent to coal. (C. in C., S.A. 1633/10)

DELHI — To arrive St. Vincent about noon/11. Request fuel arrangements. (C. in C., S.A. to Consul, St. Vincent. 2245/10)

E-Boat Menace At Freetown — C. in C., S.A. 1636/10)

Mediterranean

Troop Transport — Re Armoured Brigade from U.K. for Middle East, asking if practicable to pass two 16 knot ships through Med. during operations Hats. (1st S.L., to C. in C., Med., 1055/10 as amended 1852/10) Reply: C. in C., Med., 1209/11)

Raiding Party — Your 1301/7 One company made up of Army troops who have had good elementary boat training. Light craft unlikely to arrive two months. Command and control should be settled with C.O.C., (D.C.D. (F) to C. in C., Med., 1317/10)

Operation "Hats" — Request to signal 3 days in advance if possible date expect to be ready to leave Gibraltar for Operation "Hats" (C. in C., Med., to F.O. Force H., 1041/10) (see Mediterranean Volume)

/ French Crews.....

War Diary

10.8.1940.
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean. Contd.

French Crews at Alexandria

The reduction of crews in French Squadron at Alexandria not proceeded according to plan, owing professed failure of Italians to grant safe passage to ATHOS II who was to have taken about 1100 officers and men. Admiral Godfroy also states no room for these men at Beirut. Intended to inform him shortly that delay in carrying out undertaking to remove these men cannot continue. Appears that only satisfactory method of forcing the pace is to bring financial pressure to bear. Before doing this should be glad to know whether it is considered French will be able to continue paying men themselves as such action would make this threat useless and other methods such as cutting off supplies would have to be used. (C. in C., Med., 1049/10)

RETOWN

Required to sail from Scapa about 1500/12 (D.D.O.D. (H) 2306/10)

Cruiser Squadrons

Cancel my 1640/5. Following organisation desired:- ORION, NEPTUNE and SYDNEY to form 7th C.S. and be included in destroyer command.
KENT, GLOUCESTER, LIVERPOOL and YORK to form 3rd C.S. under F.O. 3 C.S. the whole being under the command of R.A. (D) Med., Fleet in accordance with A.T. 2019/17/7. (C. in C., Med., 1631/10)

Suez

Position 10/8. British ships ELLENGA, RANEE and HARPALYCUS loading and discharging men, stores and ammunition (D.D of S.T. Suez. to Admty. 1925/10)

Enemy Intelligence

CAVOUR and CESARE battleships reported (B.1.) badly damaged by Italian aircraft and that repairs would take about 4 months. (D.S. 341)

SARDINIA

6" Cruiser, located in approx. 34° 11' N., 13° 40 ' E., (70 miles N.N.E. Tripoli) at 1900/10 possibly on passage to Benghazi (I.C. 0540/40)

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Troop Convoys My 1621/5 etc., Review of problem of forthcoming movements of military reinforcements and urgent stores to Middle East. Proposals. Admiralty appreciation is that largest liners of MAURETANIA class should not be passed through Red Sea, but that passage of medium and smaller liners such as EMPRESS of CANADA and Dutch liners may be undertaken. (A.C.N.S., (F) to C. in C., E.I., 0132/10, 0134/10)

Bills of Lading re delay in delivery due to unexpected cancellation of air mail services. (D. of S.T. to C. in C., E.I., 2345/10)

SPINANGER Norwegian tanker, jettisoned 490 tons cargo owing to grounding. Apparently undamaged and proceeding. (Abadan, 1000/10)

Gun Landed, Somaliland My 1950/9. HOBART reports Army in British Somaliland hard pressed for competent anti-tank weapons and she has landed one 3 pdr. Hotchkiss on improvised mounting, crew one P.O. and 2 A.B's dressed in soldier's uniform and sent to point line. (C. in C., E.I., 10542/10)

Convoy B.N. 3. Route, escort, list of ships and ports of arrival. (N.C.S.O. Bombay, 9601Z/10, corrected by 16162/11)

CARTHAGE H.M.S. CARTHAGE to take over escort of B.S.S. from DRAGON in 32° S., 33° E., at 0800Z day four, day one being the day convoy sails from Cape Town. Request day one be communicated. (C. in C., E.I., 1220/10)

PRESIDENT DOUMER Your 1032/9. Ship is required in Bombay and propose therefore that she should proceed Bombay direct whence on-carriage of personnel referred to can be arranged. (D of S.T., to D.S.T.O. Port Said 2139/10)

/Conjoint Operation.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Combined Operation — Ref. 1945/21/6 and my 0654/18/7. Naval co-operation for DHQ2 is seizure of enemy vessels and silencing of possible 13 pdr. battery. In view of composition of force and necessity for close collaboration and synchronisation with military I have with C. in C. S.A's concurrence delegated control of naval operation to S.N.O., Simonstown. Support by H.M. ships from East Indies Station will be given if required and available at the time. S.N.O. Simonstown is requested to inform Dechief. (C. in C., E.I. to Admty., 0814Z/10)

Air

Aden Raid — 3 S.79 aircraft attacked Aden 0523 G.M.T. approx 12 bombs dropped presumed about 200 lbs. 2 fell within 30 yards of H.M.Q. Material damage slight. 1 R.A.F. officer killed 1 R.A.F. officer wounded. 4 other ranks wounded. 2 natives killed 13 wounded. A/A guns opened fire but failed to score a hit. Fighters failed to make contact. (A.H.Q., Aden 1821/10)

Enemy Air Raids — H.M. ships at Aden and Bebera constantly in dangerous zone of air attack made against those places. He intended to inform Admty. of each attack unless H.M. ships are actively concerned. (C. in C., E.I. 1206Z/10)

China

Troop Transport — Admty. 2310/10/7. Arrangement for Tientsin and Pekin troops leaving, and dates. Asking if any proposal for conveying military stores from Shanghai to Australia. (Cdre. i/c Hong Konh to R.N.O., Shanghai, 0545Z/10)

Convoy WS 2 — Your 0917/8. No. (D. of S.T. 2141/10 to F.O.C. Malaya.)

War Diary

10.8.1940.
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

American & West Indies

Suspicious Vessel

(LACONIA searching) Position at 1000 53.43 N., 29.35 W., 070°, 15 knots. At 2000/11 shall have only enough fuel to return to base. Possible suspect is on Great Circle track north Ireland to Cape Race, propose following same. (LACONIA 1300/10)

Visibility good after 1400. Altering to searched area N.W. through west to S.W. of 54° 20' N., 26° 40' W., Sighted only 2 vessels, Norwegian CORVUS and British SAMSO. Request instructions. (LACONIA 1700/10) Return to base (D.O.D. (F) to LACONIA, 0023/11)

S.O.S

Master of U.S. Ship POINT BRAVA reports at 1450 G.M.T. 10/8 in 13.26' N., 06.00' W., received S.O.S. from Brazilian ship MANAOS no position given. At 1522 S.O.S. again heard but call sign broken off. Signal very strong estimated within 20 miles, but vessel in distress did not reply to call. (R.O., Barbadoes, 1630/10, C. in C., A.W.I. 2212/10, 2232/10 to DIOMEDE)

SS KENTOSONO

(see 9/8) Report by passenger of capture by German raider 1200/1/7 en route Curacao to Freetown and taken by prize crew of 15 men to Tripoli arriving 12/7. Probable position of capture 9° N., 27° W., speed of KENTOSONO 14½ knots (H.S.H.Q., Ottawa 1013/10)

Australia

Troop Convoys

Proposals in your 1501/5 and 1502/5 concurred in so far as organisation of escorts concerned. Hoped they are also acceptable to N.Z.N.B. Precise dates of sailing may, however, require adjustment with regard to availability of shipping and escorts for onward passage to Egypt in relation to other large troop movements from U.K. to same destination already commenced. (D.O.D. (F) to A.C.N.B., 0130/10)

Stores Shipment

Your 2223/8, shipment of stores to Malta. arrangements made. (A.C.N.B., to D. of S.T. -Concur in proposals in your 1501/5. (D. of S.T. to A.C.N.B. 2130/10)

War Diary

10.8.1940.
Saturday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

DELOS — Left Galatze for Istanbul 10/8 (D.S.341)

MONTEVIDEO — Rio report, sequestration refused by Court of Appeal. Ship at Rio Grande. Application had been made by British firm of Schroeder (D.S. 341)

WESER — Reported short of fuel at Manzanillo, whose stocks are low. (S.O.I. Kingston, 1004/19)

War Diary

10.8.1940.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

TRANSYLVANIA. A.M.C.

Distress signal, 0001/10. Torpedoed in engine room, cannot steam. (TRANSYLVANIA, 0011/10) Have struck mine or been torpedoed in position 55.50' N., 8.03' W., (323° Malin Head, 36') (TRANSYLVANIA, 0012/10) HAVELOCK and FORESTER proceeding to assist (Capt.D.(. 0029/10) Warning ships in W. App. (C. in C., W.A., 0101/10) Rescue tugs SALVONIA and ENGLISHMAN sailed, HAMBLEDON to escort. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 0145/10) ASHANTI ordered to assist. (C. in C., H.F., 0215/10) TRANSYLVANIA sunk. (HAVELOCK, 0438/10) Destroyers have recovered C.O., 42 officers, 3329 ratings. A, searching area. (Capt. D. 9. 0625/10) My 0625/ weather now unsuitable for A/S operation. Have searched area for five hours. Survivors all ships except ASHANTI proceeding Clyde to land survivors and refuel. (D. 9. 1114/10) No delay in reporting from Malin Head Radio, received there 0014 but not received at A.C.H.Q., Rosyth, intil 0041, and Admty. remained uninformed until after 0200. (C. in C., to A.C.W App., 1329/10) Asking for medic material (Capt. D.9., 1141/10) Your 1141, after landing survivors at Clyde, proceed Liverpool, where requisite spares are being sent. (A.C.W.A., to D.9. 1535/10) Times of arrival HAMBLEDON at Campbelltown and SALVONIA and ENGLISHMAN at Greenock (HAMBLEDON, 0910/10) Aircraft report of search (Stranraer 1210/10)

Submarines Reported

0012 — 55.50 N., 0.03 W., reliable fix. ACHATES and ANTHONY to attack. (C. in C., W.A. 0058/10

0928 — Bomber aircraft reports unidentified submarine in 57.19 N., 00.01 E., at 0928 steering 230°. From direction given, was probably TANU. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1148/10)

---- — Portuguese ss SAN MIGUEL, arrived 10/8 from Azores, was stopped 200 miles off Lisbon by Italian submarine. (Source A.O.) Consul, Lisbon, 1715/10)

1233 — D.F., unknown enemy unit, probably U-boat 49.50 N., 9.30 W., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 2026/10)

/2012.....

War Diary

10.8.1940.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN (Contd.)

2012 — D.F., unknown enemy unit, probably U- Boat, 49° N., 6° W., unreliable fix (D.D.I.C. 2044/10)

2218 — 50° N., 9° W., 268° Lands End 128', indefinite position. (D.S. 341)

2242 — D.F., unknown enemy unit, probably U-boat 56° N.,

U-Boat Tactics — Amplifying Admty. 1331/39/7 re tactics which may be employed by U-boats in addition to normal forms of attack. (C. in C., W.A. 1341/10)

Estimated U-Boat dispositions:-
1 in Madeira area
1 or possibly 2 in Western Approaches
3 or 4 in North West Approaches, one of them within 50 miles of a line Blacksod, Bloody Foreland, Malin Head, another within 60 miles from 56° N., 8° W., another between Rockall and 55° N., 11° W.
2 homeward bound probably N.W. of Hebrides.
(D.D.I.C. 1259/10)

Submarines Attacked

1231 — By PEONY, 6 depth charges fired in position 56.05 N., 06.00 ' W., (PEONY to CYCLOPS 1231/10, F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1307/10) Orders to PEONY, VICTRIX and PANTHER (C. in C., W.A. 1636/10)

War Diary

11.8.1940.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Belfast as Submarine Base

It is under consideration to base three submarines at Belfast. Possible it may become necessary to base a whole Flotilla at that port.

(a) Request you report by signal:- whether the three Submarines could be berthed alongside where living accommodation and facilities for normal repairs are readily available.

(b) Whether a berth for a depot ship and up to seven Submarines could be made available without seriously disturbing normal port facilities. (A.C.N.A. H. 0236/11 to F.O.I.C. Belfast.)

Defence of U.K.

Shetlands

Your 2000/9. Would be very glad of two 4-inch Guns and Warhead Mines. As regards Personnel will communicate again. (F.O.C.S. 0952/11 to Admty.)

South and West Coasts

There are indications of Enemy Activity on S. and W coasts NEWCASTLE and available Destroyers at Devonport, and DEVONSHIRE, ILLUSTRIOUS, ECHO, HAMBLETON, and ATHERSTONE at the Clyde, are to raise steam. (D.C. 1332/11 to C. in C., W.A.) Ships indicated in my 1332/2 to revert to normal notice for steam (D.C. 2227/11 to C. in C. W.A.)

Balloon Barrages

Existing Balloon Barrages are being extended to cover Coastal Land Areas specified at Cardiff, Barry and Port Talbot. (Air Ministry 1522/11)

15th C.S.
HORSLEY, AJAX.
AUSTRALIA
AURORA

Keep steam at 2 hours notice. (C. in C., H.F. 1429/11)

/Movements.....

War Diary

11.8.1940.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

DUNCAN — Join me at 0500/11 at 57° 35' N., 5° 55' W (Capt. D.4. 0030/11 to DUNCAN)

Harwich — A/P Patrol for 11/12. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0920/11 to Admty.)

Your 1600/10 to C. in C., W.A. Anticipated time of sailing 1330/20. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1135/11 to Adty. Reptd. to VALIANT, ANGUS, etc.)

Nore Command — Day Patrols and Movements to 1200/12 (C. in C. Nore 1200/11)

AMAZON / ANTHONY — Sailed 1000/11 as by your 2019/8 (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1205/11 to A.C.N.S.A. (C. in C., W.A. 2346/11 to ANTHONY)

RENOWN — My 2306/10. Sailing postponed at least 24 hours (C.D. for F.O. Force H. 1400/11 to C. in C., H.F.)

Belfast Trawler Force — To be organised as follows (C. in C., W.A. 1420/11)

Dover — Patrols for Night 11/12 (V.A.Dover 1635/11)

ILLUSTRIOUS — Estimates 10 hours required to embark A/C Personnel and stores (C.S.I. 1559/11 to F.O.I.C. Greenock) To be embarked forthwith (A.C.N.S. H 1707/11)

2nd M.A/S B Flotilla — Request you prepare to sail Flotilla to Belfast via Caledonian Canal (A.C.N.S. H. 2052/11 to C. in C., Nore.)

Operations

Operation M.P. (Straits of Dover) — Operation M.P. (b) completed. (Capt. D.20 0135/11 to Admty.)

Iceland — A/S Trawler LORD LLOYD escoting M/S KONINGEN EMMA carrying Troops sailed for Akureyri and Seydisfjordur (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1602/11 to Admty.)

/Operation M.P.....

War Diary

11.8.1940
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations, Contd.

Operation H.A. (N/C of French Coast)

Will be carried out tonight 11/12 by M.T.Bs 5,6, 69 and 70. (V.A. Dover 1736/11 to Adty.)

Operation SW 13

Taking place near 57° 30' N., 1° W., from 2245/11 till 0215/12, forces then proceeding towards Pentland Firth. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1636/11)

Interception of Enemy Light Minelayers

If weather continues to improve, despatch 2 M.A/S.Bs to Aldeburgh Float to attack German light Minelayers who may use light as landfall. Return at dawn. Report time of sailing. (C. in C., Nore 2207/11 to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth)

Admty. 1655/11 NORFOLK and AUSTRALIA are proceeding to establish a patrol on a line 340° from position 020° Kalso Light (?) 45 miles as far as 064° 30' N., commencing in position quited at 1000/12. Ships will be 20 miles apart speed of advance 23 knots. Request air co-operation. (C. in C., H.F. 1952/11 to C. in C., Rosyth)

Submarines

Belfast as Submarine Base

See Policy.

H. 50.

Patrol near 51° 53' N., 2° 53' E., (S.O. Submarines Harwich 0716/11)

H. 34

Expect arrive 1130. (H. 34 0800/11 to S.O. Submarines Harwich)

Positions

Area A for following 24 hours at 0600/12 (V.A.S. 1602/11) Area B. (V.A.S. 1603/11)

Revised Allocation

Admty. 1828/10. Following revised allocation of submarines to Flotillas will take place (V.A.S. 2230/11 to Adty.)

SEALION

Reports that at 1515/3 she torpedoed Norwegian TORAN, 3318 tons, Southbound off the Norwegian Coast. (D.S. 342)

War Diary

11.8.1940.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

E-Boats

Brest — At 1428/11, six miles W. of Brest, 3 E-boats seen heading for Harbour. (H.Q.B.C. 0427/12)

Le Treport — At 1355/11, 30 miles W.S.W. of Treport, one E-Boat seen heading for Cherbourg, speed 25 knots. (H.Q.B.C. 0427/12)

St.Catherines — One E-boat at 180° St. Catherines Point 5 miles. (Portsmouth W/T 2315/11)

Holder — 2 E-Boats off Den Helder steering South at high speed. Aircraft report. (D.S. 342)
2 E-boats seen in New Deep out of probable group of four (PIU 0215/12)

British Air Activity

Hamburg — Between 2326/10 and 0145/11, 15 Wellington attacked Naval Armament Targets. Many bursts seen but no results observed. (H.Q.B.C. 1820/11)

Wilhelmshaven — Between 2326/10 and 0145/11, 15 Wellingtons attacked Naval Armament Targets. One large explosion and circle of minor explosions seen, but no results not observed. (H.Q.B.C. 1820/11)

Rosyth Command — My 1922/10. W1 and W4 cancelled. Escorts for HX 61 A., OA.196, and British LOCHNAGAR not yet in operation owing to weather. (C. in C., Rosyth, 0508/11)

Search for E-Boats. Twice daily — C. in C., H.F. 2327/10. To be carried out by 3 Swordfish from Hatston. Search will be called "H.C." (A.C.C.S. 1215/11 to Hatston)

Havre — Blenheim aircraft bombed Oil Tanks in the Outer Harbour (D.S. 342)

War Diary. 11.8.1940.
Sunday.

HOME WATERS

Air-Enemy Air Activity

Portland — Attacked at 1030/11 by about 50 aircraft dive-bombing. Many bombs dropped. SCIMITAR near miss, many holes, no serious damage, but one dead, 13 wounded and 1 slightly wounded. M.L. 109 hull damage. No other damage afloat. Some damage in Dockyard. (details)

One oil fuel tank set on fire, now extinguished, one damaged by gun fire, and main fuel pipe damaged. Floating Dock badly damaged. Binoculars, some damage by near miss, report ten per cent loss of officiency. Railway Line by Naval Centre completely demolished by several bombs. No fatal civilian casualties in Dockyard, and only two casualties reported. (F.O.I.C., Portland, 1405/11 to Admty.)

Floating Dock damage described. Trawler HEARTHORNSHIRE in Dock withstood the shock and has been undocked. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1633/11 to Admty.)

Bishops Rock (Scilly) — At 0902/11 Ship attacked by enemy bomber at 160° Bishops Rock (Nore W/T Read. Read. 1007/11)

Dover Balloon Barrage — Dover reports 6 casualties due to Enemy A/C (Balloon Command 0905/11) A number of Enemy aircraft, chiefly M.E. 109's shot down 6 balloons at 0730/11. (V.A. Dover, 0924/11 to Admty.) Further attacks at 0950, 1145 and 1310. One balloon shot down at 1210 (V.A. Dover 1416/11)

ANTOLIER — Bombed at 0830/11 G.M.T. at 51° 19' N., 8° 38' W. (Plymouth W/T 0932/11)

Convoy CALEB. — One aircraft 350° in 55° 28' N., 10° W. (WELLINGTON 0906/11) Fighter aircraft being sent (C. in C., W.A. 1214/11 to WELLINGTON)

At 0958/11 at 50° 10' N., 4° W., two bombs dropped by large aircraft presumed Enemy. aircraft report (A.C.H.Q., Plymouth 1055/11 to Admty.)

/Convoy PILOT.....

War Diary

11.8.1940.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity, Contd.

Convoy PILOT No 49

Large number aircraft dropping bombs at 52° 7' N., 1° 50' E., (STONK 1156/11) Large number aircraft at 52° 53' N., 1° 45' E., (WIDGEON 1207/11)

Send Tug off Shipwash. Storm blown away. (OILTRADER 1209/11 to N. Foreland Radio) OILTRADER hit aft. Anchored 71° Shipwash L.V. 3½ miles. Request Tugs. (VALOROUS 1210/11 to C. in C., Nore) OILTRADER will float but cannot steam. SS NORTH standing by. (VALOROUS 1349/11 to C. in C., Nore)

Convoy PILOT being shadowed by one aircraft at 52° 10' N., 1° 55' E., Course 030° speed 7 knots. (STONK 1223/11) Shadowed by one aircraft (VALOROUS 1516/11) Help (STONK 1522/11) Position 52° 30' N., 2° E (STONK 1527/11) KENTWOOD hit. VALOROUS standing by (STONK 1537/11) Fighters being sent (Nore W/T 1539/11) KENTWOOD hit amidships. Settling slowly (VALOROUS 1552/11) Aircraft report of attack (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1610/11) SS CORMORANT standing by (VALOROUS 1616/11) OILTRADER in tow of ST. OLAVES MURIA for Harwich. Ship in no danger but cannot steam. (OILTRADER 1655/11 to F.O.I.C. Harwich)

Convoy PILOT being shadowed at 52° 48' N., 2° 18' E., (VALOROUS 1852/11) Fighters sent (Whitehall W/T 1905/11) Aircraft report of attack (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1950/11)

KENTWOOD in roads. Fire internal not under control. Tug standing by. Crew being brought ashore. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0006/12)

Thames Estuary

Enemy aircraft bombing CITY OF BRISBANE at 51° 31' N 1° 20' E (Unknown Ship 1339/11) Note CITY OF BRISBANE was shore and abandoned, damaged by previous bombings.

Dive bombing in Princes Channel (VEGA 1343/11 to C. in C., Nore) Attacked by Dive Bombers No casualties. Position 51° 29' N., 1° 33' E (WINDSOR 1345/11) Help (WINDSOR Recd. 1400/1 Holed. Wardroom, after magazine shell room flooded. 2 wounded (WINDSOR 1455/11 to C. in C., Nore.)

Convoy ARENA

War Diary

11.8.1940.
Sunday

HOME CONFIDENCE

Enemy Air Activity Contd.

Convoy ARIEL

Being shadowed by one aircraft at 52°30' N., 0° 57' E., (BERKELEY 1040/11) Help 53° 21' N., 1° E. (BERKELEY 1031/11) shadowed by one aircraft (WOLSEY 1032/11) 4 bombs, no hits (WOLSEY 1033/11) Fighters being despatched (Whitehall W/T 1041/11) Negative 1031/ (BERKELEY Recd. 1047/11) 4 bombs, no hits (BERKELEY 1045/11)

EDWARDIAN

H.M. Trawler. Bombed and beached off North Foreland 1340/11. 3 killed, 2 seriously injured, 1 slightly. (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 1316/11 to Adty.)

Trawler BLOOD

Reports being bombed and machine gunned p.m. 11 by 3 planes 32 miles W. by N from St. Annes. No casualties (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1000/12)

Identification Signal

My 2234 this was the usual German minelaying seaplane but she fired correct friendly identification signal (VENETIA 2240/11 to C. in C., Nore.) See also 12/8.

War Diary

11.8.40.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Humber — Closed to navigation Cleeness to Humber Light Vessel. Magnetic mines suspected. (F.O. Humber 0318/11 to Adty.) Humber open to navigation (F.O. Humber 1152/11).

Tay — Suspected that magnetic mine exploded in River Tay 1510/11 (C. in C., Rosyth 2203/12).

Nore — One red mine detonated by LL sweep at 0630/11 one cable E of Barrow Deep L.V. (C. in C., Nore, 1109/11 to Adty.)

Portsmouth — One red mine detonated by LL trawlers at 0825/11 at 50°39'42" N., 0°55'36" W. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1232/11).

Operation B.S.31 — Weather permitting, intend PLOVER and VAN DER ZAAN escorted by INTREPID and IMPULSIVE to pass Humber L.V. at 1115/12, commence lay at 0100/13 in direction 202°, and return Humber. Request air escort1115/12 till dark and 0500/13 till return Humber. (INTREPID 1401/11 to C. in C., Nore). Request Patrol "T" may R.V. with INTREPID at 54 B.Buoy at 2100/12 and cover retirement. (Capt. D.20 1405/11 to C. in C. Nore). Patrol T to be carried out by 3 Harwich destroyers on night 12/13 instead of Patrol O. Orders. (C. in C., Nore, 2304/11 to D.16). (R.A.S. 1954/11).

Swansea — Red mine by LL 121° Mumbles Head light one mile. (N.O.I.C. Swansea 1756/11 to Adty.)

Falmouth — One x red mine detonated at 0745/11 at 216° St. Anthony 1.2 miles. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1840/11 to Plymouth).

ARETHUSA — ARETHUSA reports. Double explosion occurred Port Quarter in position 070° 3.4 miles Cowbar Nab Light 054° 34.8' N. 000° 41.8' W. Probably a magnetic mine. T.O.O. 1902/11/8 .. Ends. Your 1902/11/8. A ship of your draught should not be endangered in 20 fathoms by any German mine that has at present been made. Have you considered the possibility of magnetic torpedoes.

Request on arrival in Harbour you will make a further report by signal mentioning specially

A.....

HOME COMMANDS

Mining (Contd.)

ARETHUSA (Contd.)

A. Time between explosions.
B. Height of explosion.
C. Distance of explosion.off ship.
Repeat your reply to Adty. and F.O.I.C. Tyne.
(C. in C., Rosyth, 2243/11 to ARETHUSA, 2200/11).

Yesterdays explosion was similar to that of magnetic mine. Consider escorting a/c would have seen attacking a/c. (ARETHUSA 1026/12 to C. in C., Rosyth). Note. ARETHUSA with FOXHOUND (with late of Force H.) were on passage from Scapa to Sheerness to refit.

Enemy Intelligence

Cherbourg — Photographic r/c shows tanks intact. (H.Q.B.C. 1220/11).

Helder — Possible one cruiser and 2 destroyers in Helder a/c report. (V.A.S. 1358/11). At 1050/11 considerable shipping. 2 hospital ships, 2 destroyers, one s/m and other naval units in harbour. (H.Q.B.C. 0427/12). PRU. sortie shows Dutch minelaying and several small steamers arrived in naval basin. (PIU. 0215/12).

Huisduinen — 2 destroyers, course South, one approached Huisduinen at 1030/11. (V.A.S. 1358/11).

St. Nazaire — Increased shipping activity. Large tanker still present with one large, 2 medium, 3 small M.Vs in Penhouet Dock. Railway activity. (PRU. St. Eval 1500/11).

Enemy Surface Vessel — There are indications that an enemy surface vessel may be about to pass from Atlantic to North Sea by North of Scotland. (V.A.S. 1824/11) Enemy a/c reconnoitred area Faroes to 16° W. am/11th and reported sighting no warships. This possibly indicates passage of German vessel. (F.O.C.N.P. 2141/11 to Northern Patrol).

Brest — At 1428/11, four 10,000 ton cargo boats at S.W. corner of Môle and smaller boats against jetties. (H.Q.B.C. 0427/12).

War Diary

11.8.40.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoy 7A — Sailed escorted by REVENGE, ASTURIAS, ASHANTI, GRIFFIN, WATCHMAN, VORTIGERN. GRIFFIN expects to arrive Gib. 2000/17. ASTURIAS and S.S. ORION Freetown 1400Z+1/21 (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1045/11).

WINCHELSEA — Orders to leave OB.196 and proceed to collect OBM.196 and OBC.196 and escort. (C. in C. W.A. 1512/11).

ANTHONY, AMAZON — To join WINCHELSEA (C. in C., W.A. 1554/11).

Miscellaneous

Fleet Tenders A, B, and C. — Present ~~gx~~ ground tackle insufficient. If to be retained at Scapa, they must be given 2nd class moorings forthwith. (C. in C., H.F. 1535/11 to Adty.).

War Diary

11.8.40.
Sunday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

Losses from Raider Activities from April 1940. (D.S. 341,342).

Ships overdue and not otherwise accounted for are attributed to raider activities, i.e., no account is taken of possibilities of marine losses or sabotage.

ATLANTIC OCEAN			INDIAN OCEAN		
Period	Ship	Gross	Period	Ship	Gross
18/4-17/5	HAXBY	5207	30/5-18/6	m/v TIRRANNA (Nor.)	7230
27/4-10/5	SCIENTIST	6199	28/6-18/7	m/v KEMMENDINE	7769
24/6-5/7	KERTOSONO (Dutch)	9289	11/7	m/v CITY OF BAGDAD (attacked by raider)	7506
10/7	DAVISIAN (Sunk)	6435	8/7-22/7	m/v EIDANGER (Nor.) (T)	9432
13/7	m/v KING JOHN (Sunk)	5228		4 ships =	31,937
14/7	m/v BRITISH PETROL (T) (Sunk)	6891		PACIFIC OCEAN	
17/7	DELAMBRE (attacked by raider)	7032	18/6	NIAGARA (mined)	13,415
29/6-18/7	BRUGES (Belgian)	4984	8/6-10/7	m/v TROPIC SEA (Nor.)	5781
22/6-22/7	WENDOVER	5487		3 ships =	25,028
6/7-24/7	GRACEFIELD	4631			
5/7-26/7	TELA (Dutch)	3777			
5/7-26/7	SEA GLORY	1964			
16/7-5/8	DOMINGO de LARRINAGA (attacked by raider)	5358			
	13 ships =	72,480			

Grand total 20 ships = 129,445

War Diary

11.8.40.
Sunday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

ALBULA — Dutch, 329 tons. Collision in convoy. Master reports likely to sink. (JAGUAR 0118/11 to A.C.O.S.)

CAVALLO — British, 2269 tons. Ran aground in Salonika Bay. Salvage steamer arrived. Position not dangerous. (N.C.S.O., Thessalonica 1030/11 to Adty.)

EMPIRE CRUSADER — Damaged in convoy CW.9 8/8. Believed to have sunk (D.S.341).

BREIVIKEN — Norwegian, 2669 tons, left Shanghai 23 July and is 9 days overdue at Singapore (D.S. 342).

BARFONN — Norwegian Tanker, 9739 tons, left Houston, Texas 12 July and is 6 days overdue at Buenos Ayres (D.S. 342).

CERAMIC
TESTBANK } Damaged in collision. See South Atlantic.

Aircraft report Merchant ship in position 49°50' N. 7° W. hove to No.4 hatch burning at 1834. (C. in C. W.A. 2213/11 to WITHERINGTON)

War Diary

11.8.40.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

French Shipping — Consul General Tangier no. 106 10/8 to Governor Gibraltar repeated F.O. No. 239. In the case of unescorted ships I intend to act in accordance with your 2022/11/7. In the case of an escorted convoy entering Straits of Gibraltar is it intended force should be employed if necessary and available to effect compliance with OU 5316 articles 65-67. (F.O.C.N.A., 1138/11). Reply. Approved if ships and unescorted. If escorted they should be allowed to proceed (A.C.N.S.(T) 2030/11 to F.O.C.N.A.).

Gibraltar Landing ground — Re your No. E 1228 Nov. 1939, paras 3 and 5. I propose to (? operate) Gibraltar landing ground immediately for training and maintenance of F.A.A. personnel and aircraft. No violation of Spanish territorial waters. W.O. has agreed provided that assurances given in above despatch are complied with. Inform Spanish authorities if you think it advisable. (Governor Gib. 1520/11 to M.A. Madrid).

South Atlantic

DELHI search for raider — DELHI 2144/10 is passed to you for information begins. My position 2200 - 012° 40' N., 021° 30' W. proceeding 24 knots towards St. Vincent Cape Verde Is. to cut off raider. Anticipated oil remaining 0500/11 19%. It will be essential to oil on arrival St. Vincent. Ends. (C. in C., S.A. 0920/11 to Adty.)

(? Expect to arrive St. Vincent) 1200 Z plus one. At 1813/10/8 received following signal. QQQQ from CORINTHEA repetition CORINTHEA, call in plain language, two funnel passenger boat steering North position 012° 22' N. 026° 36' W. T.O.O. 1910. Intend after leaving St. Vincent to patrol S.W. of St. Vincent by night and windward of S.W. coast of Isle during daylight. (DELHI, 1652/11 to C. in C., S.A.).

CERAMIC
TESTBANK } — In collision 27° S., 10° E. at 0323/11. CERAMIC badly holed, unable to steam, CUMBERLAND attempting to tow to Walvis, passengers transferred to VICEROY OF INDIA. TESTBANK, bow damaged, proceeding to Capetown. (D.O.R. 12/8).

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic (Contd.)

To intercept OLTUL and CUIDAD DE SEVILLA

DELHI sail from St. Vincent after fuelling and patrol 40 miles to S. of C. Verde Is. for protection of shipping until p.m./13, then proceed westward and out of sight of C. Verde Is. to be in position 035° 35 miles from Porto Grande St. Vincent at 1800Z+1/14 to R.V. with and act as ocean escort to group of approx 9 ships, under DUQUESA, leaving St. Vincent 1400 plus 1 (one)/14 for R.V. with convoy S L 43 in 021° 38' N. 021° 50' W. at 1200 zone plus 1 (one) 16/8. After R.V. with SL.43 and DUNVEGAN CASTLE (ocean escort), DELHI is to patrol as requisite to intercept (a) Rumanian ship OLTUL sailed Rio de Janeiro 3/8 for Madeira estimated speed 10 knots and expected in Cape Verde Is. area 13/8. Spanish gunboat CIUDAD DE SEVILLA which sailed Rio de Janeiro 7/8 at 14 knots for Teneriffe. Ship's description. Carries 6 German technicians. If surrendered ship is to be allowed to proceed after removal of Germans otherwise ship is to be sent into Freetown under Armed Guard. OLTUL is to be sent into Freetown under armed guard. If both ships are intercepted H.M.S. DELHI is to proceed to patrol to southward of Cape Verde Is. and in any case, return to Freetown to arrive with not less than 25% fuel. (C. in C., S.A. 1745/11 to DELHI).

Sailed from St. Vincent Cape Verde Is. 2150 11th August. Am complying with your 1603 11th August. My 1016 11th August I have ascertained from British ship ALMEDA STAR that she was ship being reported a raider by British vessel CITY OF CORINTH who cancelled her distress message 1910 10th Aug. at 1933. This cancellation was not received by H.M.S. DELHI. (DELHI, 2130/11 to C. in C., S.A.)

Your 2130/11. Remain South of C. Verde Is. and adjust your position to intercept OLTUL but be at R.V. on 14/8 to comply with my 1627/11, 1708/11 and 1745/11. (C. in C., S.A. 2240/11 to DELHI).

Intelligence for attack on a certain place (C. in C., S.A. 1300/11). See Operations Volume.

MOST SECRET.

11.8.1940.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Admiralty have ordered late B.N.L.O.Dakar to bring all information regarding Dakar and practicable landing on Dakar peninsula. (C.in C. S.A. 1300/11 to G.O.C. West Africa).

13.8.1940.
Tuesday.

East Indies.

Troop Movements. Your 1320/6 following is brief summary of large troop movements converging on Egypt in next few months.
(D. of S.T. 2132/13 to P.S.T.O. Bombay).

China.

My 0835/12/7. Representatives of Dutch C.in C enquired how many mines can be supplied, their type and cost. Dutch C.in C. in N.E.I. has sent me certain proposals in the event of either country becoming engaged in war with another power (e.g. Japan). Certain amendments necessary have been included in following summary, submitted for approval or amendment before replying to Dutch C.in C. Proposals are subject to continuance of present agreement and arrangement in connectio with the war with Germany.
(C.in C. China, 0931Z/13).

Thursday.
15.8.1940.

East Indies.

Somali Force. C.in C. M.E. has ordered evacuation of Somali Force. S.N.O. Red Sea arranging.
(C.in C. E.I. 1054Z/15).

War Diary

11.8.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Armoured Brigade for M.E.

Reply to Adty. 1022/10. (C. in C., Med., 1209/11).

Italian Infractions of Greek neutrality

Your tel. 27 of 7/8. Greek Govt. are turning blind eye to Italian air activities. Recent infractions are (a) Shadowing of two of our cruisers (? up) Eastern coast of Greece by aircraft over land so that fire could not be opened; this occurred on July 28th.

(b) Bombing and machine gunning 8/8 of a number of tugs and lighters that were close in shore well within territorial waters at Hiera Petra, Crete and was witnessed by numbers of people on foreshore.

(c) Aircraft responsible for this attack retired over Crete.

2. The time has surely come when these denials by Greek Govt. should be refuted and for pointing out that sources of evidence are such that they cannot be dismissed by mere denials. (C. in C., Med., 1133/11 to British Minister, Athens).

R.A.F. Operational Summary

15 flying boats Somba 10/8. 1 ship 350 ft. long ashore 32°11' N., 23°36' E. two tugs standing by 1900/9. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 1644/11).

U.S.A. to be given Asdics.

American observers to be embarked in ships attached to H.F., Med. Fleet and Force H. H.M. Govt. have decided to equip R.D.F. and multiple pompoms to American Govt. (Hd. of M. 1849/11 to C. in C., Med.)

ROYAL SOVEREIGN Escorted by 3 destroyers left Alexandria 10/8 for Durban. (D.O.R.)

RORQUAL to lay mines. PROTEUS PANDORA

RORQUAL to lay mines in area given in Capt.(S) 1 1st 1725/2 during daylight 15/8. Keep clear to westward for 24 hours before and after anticipated time. PROTEUS is delayed and will not be on patrol west of line 340° from Benghazi until RORQUAL is clear of your area. (F.O.I.C. Malta 2211/11 to PANDORA).

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Air Reconnaissance — Coastal patrols by S.A.A.F. and 237 Sqdn. No enemy movements. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1717/11).

A.A. Defences of Berbera — Your O/15,923 10/8. Concur increase of A.A. defence Berbera very necessary but hope not by denuding temporarily defences of naval base and convoy assembly port Aden especially in view of greater attention enemy has paid to the latter port in the last few days. There may be early opportunity of H.M. ships assisting in transport of anti-aircraft guns from Suez to Aden if this is decided upon. (C. in C., E.I. 1034Z/11 to M.E.)

MORETON BAY to intercept SONTAY — Without unduly delaying your arrival at Cape Town, adjust your movements to endeavour to intercept French SONTAY which may have left Tamatave 9/8 for Sunda Strait, speed 11 knots. If met take to Mauritius. (C. in C., E.I., 1202Z/11 to MORETON BAY).

Troop Convoys — Reply to Adty. 0134/10. Programmes for BN4 NIBLICK, WS2A, BN5 NIBLICK, BN5½, WS2B, US4, US5, BN6. (C. in C., E.I. 1906Z/11).

KENT — Sailed from Aden 1825/11 to join Mediterranean Fleet. (DOR.)

China

Troop Transports — Re ships for withdrawal from Tientsin. Replying to your 0545/10. (R.N.O. Shanghai to Cdr., Hong Kong, 0300Z/11).

ARAWA — Arrangements for, covering British ships in Yangtse approach (C. in C., China, 0445Z/11, 0447Z/11).

War Diary

11.8.40.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

Troop Movements	Onward transport of battalion from Jamaica (Capt. I.C. Jamaica 1130/11).
DIOMEDE	My 2222/10. Position MANAOS was possibly up to 100 miles from Position WF01. After investigation proceed to patrol in square G.31 C returning to Trinidad by 14/8 to complete degaussing. (C. in C., A.W.I. to DIOMEDE, 0942/11).

War Diary

11.8.40.
Sunday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

LICHTENFELS LIEBENFELS MARTENFELS ODER, at Massawa	Addis Ababa informed owners 5/8 these ships discharging cargo and selling locally before being compelled to surrender on requisition by military authorities. (D.S. 342).
COBURG at Massawa	Has already discharged (D.S. 342).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

PRESIDENT DOUMER, FELIX ROUSSEL	Re requisitioning and fitting at Bombay as troopships. (C. in C., E.I., 09422/11).

War Diary

11.8.40.
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

LLANFAIR	British, 4966 tons, torpedoed, 54° 48' N., 13°46' W. Taking to boats. (Valentia Radio 1323/11). Closed LLANFAIR under protection by aircraft, arrive about 1600 (CALIFORNIA 1450/11). Straggler from SL.41 torpedoed 1324 (C. in C., W.A. 1616/11). CALIFORNIA picked up 30 survivors, 2 firemen missing (CALIFORNIA 1737/11). HESPERUS searched 1900 to 2400. Rejoining convoy (HESPERUS 0015/12
ARETHUSA	ARETHUSA reports: Double explosion occurred on port quarter in position 70° 3.4 miles Conbar Nab Light 54°34.8' N. 0° 41.8' W. Probably magnetic mine. Consider possibly magnetic torpedo. (C. in C., Rosyth, 2243/11, 2200/11). Consider explosion was caused by magnetic mine. (ARETHUSA, 1026/12).

Submarines Reported

0454	D.F. unknown unit, probably U-boat 55°20' N., 5° E. reliable fix. (D.N.I., 0528/11).
1320	54°48' N., 13°46' W., reliable fix. HESPERUS to attack. (C. in C., W.A., 1441/11) (LLANFAIR torpedoed).
1350	Civil a/c report 48°48' N., 6°56' W. 200° Scillies, 70 miles, course 150°. Request to pass to TALISMAN. (C. in C., W.A. to V.A.S., 1501/11). TALISMAN advised s/m in 48°50' N., 6°54 W. (V.A.S., 1416/11).
Sunk S/m	W/53 on S.A.9 found position of what was probably a sunk s/m buoy (Chatham, 2230/11).
1945	50°42' N., 0°14' E., off Beachy Head, supposed U-boat reported, probably E-boat (D.S. 342).

War Diary

11.8.40.
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

South Atlantic

A/c report s/m in Konakri harbour am/11 (C. in C., S.A. 1506/11). Probably French S/m BEVEZIENS (D.S.342).

Estimated U/B dispositions

The U/b northbound from Madeira may be about 45° N., 13-14° W.
2 in Western Approaches pm/10 may be making for Lorient.
3 or 4 in North Western Approaches as in my 1259/10.
2 W.N.W. Shetlands homeward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1408/11).

Possibility of U/b off Beachy Head at 1945 today Sunday. Destroyers on Patrol JC East should keep A/S transmitting Watch. (Capt. D(1) 2025/11 to SALADIN, FERNIE, SHIKARI).

Submarines Attacked

2140 — By HIBISCUS and ST. LAURENT in 57°25' N. 1°42' W. (HIBISCUS 2140/11, C. in C., Rosyth, 2348/11, 0310/12, ST. LAURENT 0115/12, 0445/12). Definitely considered to be a wreck. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1556/12).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.8.40.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

In view of heavy and sustained air attacks and the fact that destroyers and minesweepers of the Nore Command cannot long stand up to them due to their weak H/A armament it is requested that CURACOA may be allocated to Nore command as soon as she is ready for sea. (C. in C., Nore 1440/12 to Adty.)

Defence of U.K.

Nore — My 1910/12. GALATEA, KELVIN, JACKAL are to remain at half hours notice on morning of 14/8 until 0900. (C. in C., Nore 1943/12 to F.O.I.C. Humber). Destroyers other than those engaged in operation P.O. are to remain in harbour night 13th and night 14/15. (C. in C. Nore 1947/12 to F.O.I.C. Harwich).

Shetlands — Your 1033/5. We are informed by War Office that one Battalion is being sent you. We cannot hold out any hope of the second Battalion for which you asked. (1st S.L. 2300/12 to F.O.C. Shetlands).

Movements

Nore Command — Night dispositions 12/13. (C. in C., Nore 0800/12). Day patrols and expected movements to 1200/13. (C. in C., Nore 1200/12).

POWEY — My position 57°58' N. 16°4' W., course 072, speed 8½ knots. British SHEKATIKA in company. (POWEY 1001/12 to VANOC).

CIRCASSIA — Leaves Clyde pm/14th to patrol between 30° and 32° N. and 15° and 21° W. returning Clyde 1300/4th September (F.O.C.N.P. 1036/12).

SALOPIAN — Have case of Diphtheria Gravis and further anti-toxin urgently required. Request approval R/V with CALIFORNIA and later with CILICIA and CHESHIRE to get supplies. My position at 1100 is 54° N. 16°15' W. course 191° speed 12 knots. (SALOPIAN 1125/12 to F.O.C.N.P.)

ECLIPSE — Your 1243/12. To work up at Scapa, finishing trials in time to join ILLUSTRIOUS screen and release ECHO for duty referred to in Adty. 1331/5. See C. in C., H.F. 1632/10. (R.A.D. 1501/12 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

MOST SECRET
War Diary

12.8.40.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Western Patrol Trawlers — Following areas are established. (S.O.W.P. trawlers 1732/12).

2nd M.A/S.B. Flotilla — To be sailed in daylight to Humber, thence to Rosyth for Belfast via Caledonian Canal. Less Nos. 07, 08, 09 which are to sail in company by same route when ready. Adty. 1005/12. (C. in C., Nore 1744/12 to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth). M.A/S.B's 6,10, and 11 will be sailed at 0600/13. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1925/12 to Adty.)

RENOWN — My 1400/11. Will be required to sail at 1600/13. (D.O.D.H. 1855/12 to C. in C., H.F.) Will sail for Gibraltar with S.O. Force H. at 1600/13 routed as in C. in C., W.A. 1321/11. Request A/S escort (C. in C., H.F. 2229/12 to C. in C., Rosyth).

LEITH — Sailed in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 2050/11. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 2140/12 to ST. LAURENT).

ILLUSTRIOUS — Propose sail for Scapa 0730/14. Expect arrive 0500/15. (ILLUSTRIOUS 2205/12 to C. in C., H.F.)

Operations

Operation MQ — (R/c of French Coast). My 1736/11. Operation was carried out last night 11/12. No vessels sighted. Will be repeated tonight 12/13. (V.A. Dover, 1229/12 to Adty.)

Proposed A/S Operation by FURIOUS — I could take opportunity of RENOWN departure to sail FURIOUS in company so that after screen is detached by F.O. Force H same A/S operation in North Western Approaches can be carried out by FURIOUS and her screen. A minimum of seven destroyers will be required which will necessitate postponement of S.N.14 up to three days. Request decision. (C. in C., H.F. 1229/12 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary — HOME COMMANDS — 12.8.40. Monday.

Proposed A/S operation by FURIOUS (Contd.)

Use of FURIOUS as you propose is not ruled out but is a somewhat drastic measure and it is considered that the destroyers compelled to remain as A/S screen for FURIOUS throughout the operation proposed would be better employed acting as a hunting force in conjunction with shore based aircraft. Request you will detail such destroyers as you can spare to operate under C. in C. W.A. Operation S.N.14 should not be postponed. (1st S.L. 1834/12 to C. in C., H.F.)

Your 1834. As the destroyers additional to a normal screen for RENOWN could only be obtained by postponing S.N.14 the projected use of FURIOUS becomes impracticable, neither are there destroyers to spare for loan to A.C. Western Approaches. (C. in C., H.F. 2149/12 to X Adty.)

Operation PJ.

Operation PJ is to be carried out tonight (C. in C., Nore, 1141/12).
M.T.B. Patrols off Maas and Scheldt, and Brown Ridge Patrol by 3 destroyers will be carried out tonight 12/13. (R.A.S. 1402/12 to S/m H.50). C. in C., Nore's 1444/31/7. Operation P.J. para 5 and 1141/12. T patrol will be east of 003° E. (Capt. D. 16th D.F. 1429/12 to C. in C., Nore). Cancel my 1141. (C. in C., Nore 1509/12 to S.O. M.T.Bs Felixstowe).

Operation PN. (Sweep off mouths of Maas and Scheldt). One unit of M.T.Bs to carry out tonight 12/13 and to be 25 miles clear of coast by first light. Report time of sailing. (C. in C., Nore 1506/12 to S.O. M.T.Bs Felixstowe).

Operation PO.

3 Harwich Destroyers under D.16 in MALCOLM to sweep between 53°8' N. 4°36' E. and 53°23' N. 4°48' E. to destroy enemy light forces. Leave Aldeburgh L.F. 2000/13 and complete sweep by 0300/14. Thence at high speed to Humber and arrive Harwich daylight 15th. (C. in C., Nore 1910/12 to F.O.I.C. Harwich) (C. in C., Nore 1142/12 to D.16 and F.O.I.C. Harwich). Amend my 1910/12 as follows. (C. in C., Nore 1604/13 to F.O. Harwich).

MOST SECRET

War Diary — HOME COMMANDS — 12.8.40. Monday.

Operations (Contd.)

Patrol T — Carry out tomorrow, sailing 1645/13, returning to Harbour via Aldeburgh Light Float am/14. (D.21 2255/12 to VENETIA, VESPER, VIMY).

My 1112/11. Patrol T is to be carried out in lieu of Patrol O tonight 12th, ships leaving Harwich at 1800/12 and acting as in C. in C's Nore 2304/11. (D.16 1148/12 to VETERAN, AMBUSCADE, VENOMOUS).

Submarines

Proposed S/m Base at Belfast — Your 0235/11 and my 1104/11. Berths for a Depot ship and 7 s/ms can be provided now, but proposals are being forwarded to increase berth accommodation for the future. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1223/12 to Adty.)

Positions at 0600/13 — Area A. (V.A.S. 1716/12). Area B (V.A.S. 1713/12) (V.A.S. 0004/13).

E-Boats

Zeebrugge — At 0445/12 one E-boat at anchor near Zeebrugge. (Chatham, A.C.H.Q. 0650/12).

Boulogne — At 1800/12, 6 E-boats at Northern Quay and 6 E-boats leaving. A/c report (PIU 0206/13 to N.I.D.)

Calais — At 1800/12, 2 E-boats entering. A/c report. (PIU. 0206/13 to N.I.D.)

British Air Activity

R.C. and bombing programme — For 13/8 (H.Q.C.C. 1830/12).

Air searches — For 13/8 (C. in C., Rosyth 1838/12).

Attack on Hornum Sea-Plane Base — At 0100/12, bombed by a/c. Bursts observed but no results. (H.Q.B.C. 0028/13).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.8.40.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity

TAMARISK & PYROPE sunk — M/s trawlers TAMARISK and PYROPE sunk by bombs in vicinity of N.E. Spit Buoy at 1120 today Monday. Survivors taken to Margate. (C. in C., Nore, 1915/12).

Air raid on Portsmouth — Blackgang and ventnor report one of enemy planes which attacked today had what appeared to be a glider in tow. (C. in C., Portsmouth 2012/12). Details of damage caused in air raid on Portsmouth today (Supt. Civil Sgt., Ports. Dkyd. 2123/12).

Air raid on Dover area — 12/8. One barrage balloon shot down. Bombs dropped at Manston, Ramsgate, Deal Dover, Folkestone and Hawkinge. Fragments being forwarded for analysis since some doubt exists whether they are from a bomb or a shell. (V.A. Dover, 2113/12).

Identification Signal — VENETIA reports that aircraft sighted at 2234/11 in position 51°27' N. 1°24' E. steering 300° height 2,000 feet was German minelaying seaplane. Aircraft fired correct friendly identification signal. (C. in C., Nore, 0041/12).

WITHERINGTON — Attacked 180° Scillies 20 miles (WITHERINGTON 0732/12). Fighter a/c being sent to your assistance (Plymouth W/T 0735/12). Bombing has ceased for the moment, attacked by 2 a/c no hits. (WITHERINGTON, 0815/12).

Convoy AGENT — Shadowed by one a/c 51°55' N. 1°39' E. (? EGRET 1136/12). M.T.Bs are proceeding from Harwich to rescue fighter pilots who may fall into sea as result of air battle over convoy. (C. in C., Nore, 1147/12).

KERNEVAL, RIVERYTHAN, ERMINE — Trawlers, bombed and machinegunned 12/8 20 miles off Swalls. KERNEVAL hit below w.l. by cannon and m.g. bullets. RIVERYTHAN engines damaged by near miss bomb. 2 casualties in ERMINE and KERNEVAL (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1511/13, N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1041/13).

Tobermory — R.C. plane heard over Tobermory harbour 2345. (Western Isles, 1150/12).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.8.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity (Contd.)

MD VI. — Sunk by bomb this morning. Casualties. (VERNON 1645/12).

Mining

Liverpool — Closed. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0220/12 to Adty.) Re-opened (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1801/12 to Adty.)

St. George's Channel — Trawler BASS ROCK reports 5 explosions on 6/8 about 25 miles W. of Smalls L.V. No vessels then in the area. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1150/12 to Adty.)

Belgian Trawler ANDRE MONIQUE fouled 2 mines at 51° N. 6° W. one mine exploded, second cut adrift. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1155/12 to Adty.)

Tyne — 2 ground magnetic mines detonated by LL 280° Tyne North Pier Light 3-6 miles. (PMSO.1156/12 to F.O.I.C. Tyne).

Humber — PLOVER, VAN DER ZAAN, INTREPID, IMPULSIVE leave Humber L.V. 1115/12 for operation B.S.31. (C. in C., Nore, 1200/12).

Harwich — Moored mine cut and destroyed 4 miles West of Position "Y" (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1215/12 to Adty.)

Buchan Ness — 4 minelayers with destroyer escort laid mines off Buchan Ness during night 11/12. (D.C.N.S. 12/8).

Belfast — A/c minelaying took place in Belfast Lough last night. Port remains open. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1514°/12 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.8.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining (Contd.)

281 07 — 3 ships of 1st M.S.F. to carry out exploratory Sweep as soon as practicable. 2 LL sweepers to be kept at Scapa. (C. in C., H.F. 1903/12)

116. 07S. — Closed, pending result of sweeping during night 13/14. (C. in C., Nore, 2105/12 to V.A. Dover).

Enemy Intelligence

At 0100/12 in 52°22' N. 2°20' E. a large number of lights seen. (H.Q.B.C. 0028/13).

At 0315/12 in 52°39' N. 4°36' E., 600 or more lights, thought to be bargesor small craft bunched together stationary along coast about 3/4 mile out. (H.Q.B.C. 0028/13).

Hook — At 0154/12 about 300 lights, possibly phospherescence. (H.Q.B.C. 0028/13).

Zuider Zee — At 0210/12. About 2 parallel lines of stationary lights one mile apart and 400 yards between lights running from Harlingen to Den Helder. (H.Q.B.C. 0028/13).

CONDORCET — Pru. Sortie 12/8 at Brest shows no important change except removal of CONDORCET. (PIU 2120/12

Brest — At 0900/12. Land aerodrome extensively occupied. At least 30 a/c. (PIU Wembley 2300/12).

Gironde — One M/V left on 12/8, course 330° (TALISMAN X 2330/12 to V.A.S.)

Operation MC — No vessels sighted off French coast during this operation night 12/13. (V.A. Dover, 1158/13 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.8.40.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence (Contd.)

Eroica

At 1310/12, one M/V about 5000 tons steering 350°. A/c report. (D.S. 343).

Kiel

A/c photographs 12/8 show both battleships present in floating docks HIPPER class cruiser at Krupps LUETZOW in dry dock KOELN cruiser left dock and probably leftport. Photographs do not permit s/ms to be counted. Harbour apparently covered with oil (PIU 0135/13).

At 2220/12 in 52°30' N., 4°30' E., two destroyers heading North. (H.Q.B.C. Recd. 0632/14).

At 2230/12 in 52°30' N. 5°30' E., 20 stationary ships. (H.Q.B.C. Recd. 0632/14).

Zuider Zee

5 miles North of Harderwyk, 4 medium sized M/Vs apparently stationary. (H.Q.B.C. recd. 0632/14).

Shipping

Convoys

OA.198 — Leaves Methil 0730/13, close escort DEPTFORD, BLUEBELL. DEPTFORD to be relieved by GLEANER off W. Coast Scotland. (C. in C., Rosyth, 0918/12).

EN.2 — Proceeding by Route F. (NORTHERN DAWN 0930/12).

HX.62 — Position etc. (HIGHLANDER, 1145/12, FOWEY 1815/12).

BHX.65 — Left, ocean escort MONTCLARE. (Capt I.C. Bermuda, 1154/11, recd. 0955/12).

OA.200 — Route. (C. in C., W.A. 1238/12).

OB.199 — Route. (C. in C., W.A. 1239/12).

? — Convoy should not arrive Bar L.V. before 0500/13. Outward convoy will be anchored at Bar. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, to WELLINGTON, 1253/12).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.8.40.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping (Contd.)

Convoys

OA.197 — 40 vessels, position. (A.C.O.S. 1326/12).

HX.62 — To split before dark 12/8. Routes. (C. in C., W.A. 1406/12).

HG.40 — Expected time arrival B.C. Section 1100/13. (WESTCOTT 1656/12). Your 1656. No trawler escort available. Escort ships to Milford Haven, then return Liverpool. (C. in C., W.A. 1822/12).

SL.41 — Stornoway 2359/12 northbound (A.C.O.S. 1758/12).

GOTEBORG — Your 1557/9 GOTEBORG should be ready to sail a.m. 13/8. (Ad. of M., to N.A. Stockholm, 1234/12). My 1557/9. German safe conduct is given subject to time and date of sailing being notified 36 hours in advance. I must therefore have at least 48 hours' notice. Further telegram is desired to confirm that vessel has actually sailed with Swedish passengers on board. (N.A. Stockholm, 1308/12).

ULSTER MONARCH — Your 1754/11. Expected time of sailing 2000. (F.O.I.C. Greenock to C. in C., W.A., 1314/12).

HELLIER II — My 0100/9. Route instructions not received (WESTERN ISLES, to Adty., 1205/12).

General — Ref. Adty. 0024/22/6. All British and foreign fishing vessels bound for East Coast ports in the U.K. are on and after 19th Aug. to call at Thurso for search and not repeat not Kirkwall. D. of L.D. 1500/12).

MOST SECRET

12.8.40.
Monday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping (Contd.)

Use of W/T

Adty. M/O.D 1088/40 of 29/7/40. The breaking of W/T silence by FN and FS convoys when south of 53° N. to report anchoring in a fog would appear to be extremely dangerous in view of Germany's excellent D/F arrangements. The length of line of these convoys is such that even in thick weather they would be an easy target for E-boats to intercept.
Therefore proposed that when north of 53° escorts of FN and FS comply with Adty. M/O.D. 1088/40 29/7 but when south of 53° they should break W/T silence to report any deviation from the timetable after the fog clears sufficien -tly for flying to take place in their vicinity. That the Fighter Command should inform area combined headquarters, Rosyth and Nore at any time when conditions are suitable for flying and they are doubtful of the convoys position. Nore concurs with these proposals. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1556/12).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.8.1940.
Monday

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

TREVARRACK — British, reported overdue in my 1138/10 has arrived Durban. (S.O.I. Cape Town 0908/12 to Admty.)

CHARLES [illegible] — Belgian Trawler, last sighted 26th July fishing 30 miles N.W. of Longships. Not heard of since. - resumed lost. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1635/12)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.8.1940.
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Air Reconnaissance

Summary. London K 5260 force-landed 137 Europa 36, no damage, towed to Gibraltar. (200 group 1807/12)

ANIE MATKOVIC

Yugoslav. My 1654/6 and Consul-General Tangier telegrams. Asking for assurances these are receiving immediate consideration. (F.O.C.H.S. 1530/12)

French Blockade

My 1530/12. Do not believe reports of aerial attack on Gibraltar but presume question of convoy and of blockade generally is receiving serious consideration. Appears of primary importance that any incident should be avoided. Suggest inform residents of Tunisia Algeria and Morocco -
(a) That we have no intention of attacking their harbours
(b) That there is no intention of starving French people or natives; that average peacetime quantities of necessary commodities for North Africa colonies will be allowed to pass Atlantic blockade; that North African Colonies will not be prevented from exporting commodities to unoccupied France provided it is guaranteed these will not pass into enemy or occupied teritory. This would refute present enemy propaganda. (F.O.C.H.A., 1532/12 to Admty.)

South Atlantic

THEVAMBRACK

My 1128/10. THEVAMBRACK (reported overdue) arrived Durban (S.O.I. Capetown 0908/12)

DELHI

My 1745/11. If your R.V. with group from Bothil is made in sight of land or shipping, make a large deviation to westward resuming course for R.V. with SL 43 after dark (C. in C., S.A. to DELHI 0936/12)

Routes

Cancelling routeing chart C.B.O. 1671, etc., N.C.S.O's to route in such manner as information at their disposal and circumstance may demand. (C. in C., S.A. 1243/12)

/CANTON.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.8.1940.
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic. Contd.

CANTON — N.P.C's. 1700/5. Route (C. in C., S.A. to CANTON 1319/12)

DORSETSHIRE — My 1112/10. Orders for patrol and passage to Simonstown for refit and docking (C. in C., S.A. 1500/12)

ROLF Escape — Consul-General 1905/5 reporting arrival of Dutch ship ROLF which escaped from Dakar 30/7 was reported to Fairmoss (S.O.I., Freetown, 1 1615/12)

Raider Report (False) — Following intercepted by Alexander Bay Radio at 1833 HOUR 08° 56' S., 008° 53' E., raider at or about. ST AGNES (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, to CUMBERLAND, KENT, CATHAY, DRAGON, 1853/12)

If you are ships reported by ST AGNES (O.M.C.W.) raider signal, break W/T silence to report. (C. in C., S.A. to PERTHSHIRE, BRITANNIA, 1918/12)

Suspicious vessel later identified as British TRINIDAD. (S.O.R. 13/8)

Mediterranean

French Troops — My 1049/10. Vice-Admiral Godfrey now informs me ATHOS II will sail on 15/8 for Beirut. (C. in C., 1307/12)

Operation "Hats" — Asking when Operation "Hats" is expected to start. (C. in C., Med. to F.O. Force H. 1603/12) Anticipate I shall be able to inform you tomorrow, Tuesday. (F.O. H., in Admiralty 1929/12)

A/A Precautions Submarines — Attention called to vital importance of exercising full anti-aircraft precautions when presence of enemy aircraft is to be expected. (Details) (Capt. S.I., 1946/12)

/Operations.....

MOST SECRET
War Diary

12.8.1940.
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean. Contd.

Operations Intended

Destroyer sweep along N. African Coast from Bardia westward. NEPTUNE and SYDNEY sweep north of Crete during dark hours, while destroyers carry out A/S sweep along known U-Boat patrol line south of Cavno. Cover for movements of ex-French tanker PHENIX from Istenbul to Alexandria. Owing to submarine losses in inshore patrols, decided to establish a movable patrol line N. of 36° 00' N., adjusted to cover route from Messina and Taranto to Benghazi. (C. in C., Med., 1601/12)

Submarine Reinforcements.

Re move of 4 TRITON class to Med. (V.A.S. 1057/12) See Mediterranean Volume.

Convoy

M.F. 1. arrived (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 0910/12)

Air.

Malta

One aircraft escorted by 6 fighters approached Malta at about 1330/12. Fighter aircraft went up but did not intercept. Enemy withdrew without dropping bombs. (D.O.R. 13/8)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.8.1940.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Raider

My 1726/8. Suggesting raider resembles German ship COBURG, last reported Massawa. Now considered unlikely ship belongs RAMB or CAPITANO BOTTEGO class. (C. in C., E.I. 0726/12)
Your 0726/12. From intercepted W/T message to owners, believed COBURG was still at Massawa on 5/8, having discharged her cargo. (D.D.I.C., 1632/12 to C. in C., E.I.)

HERPALYCUS

British trans ort, position. (GRIMSBY 14642/12 to CALEDON)

Somaliland

Should like to confirm that should S.O.C., Somaliland, at any time ask for ship to bombard coast road between Zeila and Berbera you will be able to arrange this. (1st S.L. to S.N.O., Red Sea., 1502/12) Confirmed. Probably HOBART, with a sloop when convoy is not running. (S.N.O. Red Sea Force to Admty. 16212/12)

Troop Transports

Your 0942/11 and P.S.T.O. Egypt's 1219/11. Agree PRESIDENT DOUMER and FELIX ROUSSEL should be requisitioned at Aden. Confirmed FELIX ROUSSEL is also to be fitted Bombay as tropp transport. (D. of S.T., to C. in C., E.I., 2314/12)

Air

Berbera

Raid by 3 H. 70's at 0610. No material damage. (A.H.Q. Aden 1807/12) (See also CARLISLE report, 13/8)

China

Evacuations

My 0300/11. Proposed arrangement for conveyance of military families to Australia. (R.N.O. Shanghai, 07502/12 to Cdre., H.K.)

Your 0750/12 and my 0831/12. Cancel booking in NANKUEDA. Families will be sent in British TANDA (Cdre. i/c Hong Kong, to R.N.O. Shanghai, 15374/12)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.8.1940.
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA — Date of arrival at Halifax. (C. in C., A.W.I., 0932/12)

Troop Transports — Requesting to reply to his 1507/9 and 1213/10 Asks if ANTONIA diverted to Halifax. Plans for ASCANIA, NEW NORTHLAND and LADY DRAKE. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1126/12)

Plans re EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA, which has replaced ATHLONE CASTLE. Details of personnel (D. of S.T. 2312/12 to Capt. i/c Jamaica)

Your 1507/9. Cunard White Star appointed managers of PASTEUR. Agree to proposals for passage to W. Indies of personnel ex EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA, but proposal to turn ANTONIA round undesireable. Capacity of GEORGIC. (D. of S.T. to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 2313/12)

Your 1130/11. Anticipated LADY DRAKE and probably NEW NORTHLAND, depends on size of draft for Jamaica, will sail from Halifax about 20/8. Military hope to communicate particulars of stores shortly. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1647/12)

Germans in Japanese Vessels — Consul-General San Francisco reports Japanese authorities less and less inclined to honour gentlemen's agreement regarding passage of German nationals on Japanese vessels, and increasing number being given visas by Japanese Consular Offices. Observations. (Ambassador, Washington, 1616/12

Convoy S.C.2. — Proposed sailing date. Thereafter regular 8 day cycle. These dates falling midway between SEX date are most convenient for Sydney. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa. 1720/12)

Australia & New Zealand

Convoy Escorts. PERTH — Admty. 0130/10. New Zealand Govt. would be grateful if PERTH could form Tasman escort with ACHILLES. Escort onwards from Australia is subject of a telegram to Se. of State. (N.Z.N.B. 0347Z/12 to Admty.)
N.Z.N.B. 0347/12. PERTH could be made available, but as ADELAIDE will be refitting prefer ACHILLES only form ocean escort. Consider one cruiser adequate. (A.C.N.B. 0757 Z/12 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.8.1940.
Monday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

SALZBURG	Arrived with Russian Manganese for Germany. (Galatz, 1546/12)
EULER	My 1832/30/7. EULER now sailed for unknown destination believed to be Bayonne. (Bilbao 1545/12)
DUISBURG LEVERKUSEN	Arrived Venice 7/8 from Naples. (D.S. 343)
PREUSSEN	Due Venice from Naples shortly. (D.S. 343)
CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN	Tanker, still reported at short notice at Las Palmas. (D.S. 343)
ESTE	Seized by Dutch at Curacao 10/5, to proceed to England to dispose of cargo. (D.S. 343)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

POMONA	Arrived Fiume 7/8 and sailed 11/8 Durazzo General cargo and timber. (Busak 1230/12)

MOST SECRET

12.3.1940.
Monday

For Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

BRITISH FAME — British tanker, 8406 tons, torpedoed and sunk 0900/12 in position 37.44' N., 22.56' W Portuguese destroyer DAO going to rescue (Lisbon, 1600/12) DAO sailed from here at 1500 G.M.T. to send for crew. (Consul, Porta Delgarde, 1605/12) (F.O.C.N.A. 2029/12) (D.D.I.C., 2055/12) Bound from Avonmouth to Abadan via Cape in ballast.

Submarines Reported

0855 — 54.18 N., 5.30 W., outside Strangford Lough, reported by aircraft. (DS 342) (WELLINGTON, 0853/12) No A/S contact made. Attacks on large porpoises. (WESTCOTT, 1301/12)

0532 — 55.26 N., 9.54 W., course 110° AMAZON and ANTHONY to attack. (C. in C., W.A. 0954/12) Sighted by Sunderland aircraft (C. in C., W.A., 0958/12)

0300 — U-Boat attacked by PEONY in 56.05 N., 06.00 W., at 1231/10 probably left this area about 0300/12, proceeding westward. WESTERN ISLES to institues search with all available craft in area Barra Head to Skerryvore and to 100 fathom line, aircraft co-operating. (C. in C., W.A. 1118/12)

1400 — Suspect am over enemy submarine, position 57.25 N., 1.42 W., course 200° speed 1 knot assisted one armed trawler (A/C 612 Sqdn., 1400/12) Aircraft 1400. HIBISCUS attacked contact in approx same position at 2140/11. Definitely considered wreck. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1556/12)

2220 — Between 47° and 50° N., 10° and 13° W. very indefinite position (D.S. 343)

2311 — Between 39° N., and 45° N., 15° W and 24° W. very indefinite position (DS 343)

2330 — S.W. of Lorient, very indefinite position. (DS 343)

MOST SECRET

12.8.1940.

War Diary Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Attacked

2014 By ANTHONY, 55.47 N., 9.38 W., (ANTHONY, 2014/12) Lost contact after third attack, searching vicinity, fog bound. (ANTHONY, 2145/12) Continue hunt as long as fuel allows. Aircraft will assist from dawn if weather permits. (C. in C., S.A. 0211/13 to ANTHONY and AMAZON) Your 0211/13 No further contact. My position 55.52 N., 9.24 W., (ARROW 1930/13)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.8.1940.
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Enemy Operations in Norway

A report received from Stockholm early this morning, together with other factors, indicated the probability of a German naval operation in progress in Norway. The indications of the last few days are consistent with a seaborne operation in northern waters. All Naval, Military and Air Force authorities concerned were informed, and the Home Fleet was brought to short notice for steam.

NORFOLK and AUSTRALIA were ordered to continue to patrol N.W. of the Faroes.

RENOWN

S.O. Force H. in RENOWN which should have sailed today for Gibraltar was diverted to Iceland in view of possible enemy operations in Norway.

Operation PN and Brown Ridge Patrol

The patrol by M.T.B's off the Maas and Acheldt and Brown Ridge patrol by 3 destroyers were carried out last night.

Operation MA

The group by M.T.B's of the French coast was repeated last night. No vessels were sighted between Boulogn and Cape Gris Nez.

M.T.B. Encounter

M.T.B's 18,16 and 14 had a short idecisive engagement with enemy small craft, probably trawlers or drifters and E-boats off Hook of Holland at 0225 today. M.B.B. 18 was slightly damaged by running a drifter which she mistook for an E-Boat. There were no casualties in our ships and all three returned safely to harbour. On the way home, they engaged and claim to have hit a Dornier at 900 ft.

Lorient as Submarine Base

It is suspected from air reconnaissance that Lorient is now used as a submarine base.

/Channel Traffic.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.8.1940.
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands, Contd.

Channel Traffic

Fresh arrangements have been made for the maintenance of mercantile traffic in the English Channel between Falmouth and Portsmouth. Ships are to proceed by night hops in escorted small groups. Between Portsmouth and the Thames convoys will run on an eight day cycle, heavily escorted the ships in convoy flying kites.

British Air Activity

The routine patrols were extended to the Danish and Norwegian coasts.

Photographic reconnaissance has indicated considerable activity in Den Helder. Base, Willemsoord Dochy and Ijmmiden. Last night 4 aircraft of Coastal Command attacked the base, apparently with some success. It is thought that an ammunition dump was hit and exploded.

Successful operations were undertaken last night by Bomber Command against the Docks at Amsterdam, Borkum Seaplane Base and other targets.

Hampdens attacked targets near the Dortmund-Ems Canal, aqueducts, lock gates north of the aqueduct and other targets. "M" bombs were dropped, one, it is estimated, successfully. Other results not observed.

Seven Hampdens successfully carried out mine-laying operations in the South entrance of the Langelands Belt and three in Flushing Fiord.

/Enemy Air Activity.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.8.1940.
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

Enemy aircraft activity today over this country was on a scale far in excess of anything hithertoo carried out. It is estimated that ~~over 2000~~ enemy aircraft were engaged in operations over Great Britain.

Attacks were made on aerodromes, airframe factories, lines of communications, convoys docks, ports and industrial objectives.

The main effort of the enemy was directed to attacks all along the south coast from Weymouth to the Thames Estuary. All these raids were intercepted by our fighters which suffered very little loss but inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy, destroying 78 aircraft, with an additional 33 probable and 49 damaged. British losses were 13 planes but only 3 pilots.

At Southampton, the docks suffered major damage this evening. At Dover, where 4 balloons were shot down this morning, and one came down later, believed hit by Shrapnel At Cardiff some damage was done in the dock area and two ships were slightly damaged.

The LL Trawler ELIZABETH ANGELA was bombed and sunk this morning while sweeping in the Downs. A convoy was bombed off Kinnairds Head shortly before midnight today but was not damaged.

Mining

Operation DS 31

PLOVER and VAN DER ZAAN, escorted by INTREPID and IMPULSIVE, laid mines between Lowestoft and the Hook of Holland last night.

During the last 3 days, 5 minesweepers have been sunk or damaged by air attack off the South East coast. In view of persistent air attacks on mine sweepers routine searching sweeps between the Tougue and Beachy Head and in the Portsmouth Command are being discontinued. Searching sweeps will be arranged prior to the passage of convoys and as required in connection with operations, and will be carried out at night whenever possible.

/Enemy.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.8.1940.
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining, Contd.

Enemy minelaying is suspected last night off the North East and East coasts and in the Thames Estuary and Bristol Channel. Two or possibly 3 magnetic mines were laid in Milford Haven, but no mines were exploded by sweeping today.

Mines were dropped by aircraft in the Tyne and Clyde. Attempted minelaying by enemy aircraft took place at Stranraer (Wigtownshire) last night, two mines being dropped on land where they exploded.

Mines were detonated today at Fishguard and in the War Channel near the Shipwash.

Milford Haven was closed during last night and opened to degaussed ships in the afternoon until sunset. The Tyne and Clyde were closed until the afternoon. Rosyth was closed for a few hours in the early morning.

Italian Hostilities

British Somaliland

This morning AUCKLAND and KIMBERLEY bombarded a target signalled by aircraft in British Somaliland near El Sheikh (10° 27' N., 44° 15' E.,) and dispersed troops and lorries.

CHAKDINA destroyed a floating mine in 10° 42' N., 44° 54' E (off Berbera) this morning (Tuesday)

CARLISLE this afternoon disabled an Italian aircraft attacking Berbera. The plane landed near the aerodrome and the pilot was captured.

Air Raid on Augusta

Shortly before midnight 9 aircraft of 830 Squadron, 3 armed with torpedoes and 6 with bombs attacked a concentration of shipping in Augusta harbour. The results of the torpedo fire were not observed, possibly some bomb hits were made on a group of small vessels. All three torpedo aircraft were lost.

/SS EL HAK.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.8.1940.
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Italian Hostilities, Contd.

SS WL HAK (British 1022 tons) was bombed and abandoned aground off Kamaran today.

It is reported today that on 8/8 the SS SHINWA was pirated by Chinese soldiers who boarded the ship from a steamer flying the Japanese flag. There is reported to be ample evidence of Japanese negligence in this piracy.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.8.1940.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

French Ships

Reference List dated 20/7/40 of French Ships to be commissioned for service, GUEPSCON will join 1st D.F. at Portsmouth when ready for service. (D.C.D. H. 1802/13 to C. in C. W.A.)

Defence of U.K.

Home Fleet

Keep steam at one hours Notice. (C. in C., H.F. 0444/13)

My 0456/13 All available ships raise steam. long leave should not be cancelled for the present (A.C.N.S. H. 0505/13)

DEVONSHIRE

Raise steam at one hours notice. (C. in C., H.F. 0515/13 to DEVONSHIRE)

Nore Command

Ships Companies cannot be sent on leave for the present. (C. in C., Nore 0644/13 to ARETHUSA, FOXHOUND, Cdre. Sheerness, F.O.I.C. London.)

All available ships keep steam at half hours notice. (C. in C., Nore 0649/13)

All available ships keep steam at one hours notice (C. in C., Nore 1053/13)

My 0505/13. Ships of Nore Command may revert to 2 hours notice. Ships companies of ARETHUSA and FOXHOUND may proceed on leave and these two ships be taken in hand for refit (A.C.N.S. H. 1811/13 to C. in C., Nore) Ships may be at 2 hours notice (D.C. 2208/13 to C's in C.)

Faroes.
(Troop Reinforcements)

Adty's 1331/5. Sail ULSTER MONARCH, ASHANTI ECHO, at 2000/14 speed 16 knots by Searched Channel. Route to Faroes. A.C.O.S. requested to amend Route in his area if he considers desirable. (C. in C., W.A. 1208/13) (to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

/Shetlands.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.8.1940.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K., Contd.

Shetlands	My 0852/12. Gun-Pits for 4-inch guns now ready. Request Timber Baulk Mounting for second 1.9 Mounting to be sent with guns. (F.O.C.S. 1245/13 to Adty.)
Dundee	Your 1245/13. In view of existing situation, these practices should be postponed till further orders. (C. in C., Rosyth 1511/13 to N.O.I.C. Dundee.)

Movements

Capt. D.4.	Return to Scapa with your Destroyers with despatch as soon as clear from duty with SN 13. (C. in C., H.F. 0504/13 to Capt. D. 4.)
RENOWN	Cancel my 2229/12. S.O. Force H. in RENOWN screened by 4 destroyers will sail 1600/13. Route to Gibraltar. Request A/S air escort for first part of route (C. in C., H.F. 1219/13 to C. in C., Rosyth) As soon as V.A. (H) arrives RENOWN is to proceed to sea and towards Iceland (Adty. 1054/13 to C. in C., H.F.)
WHITEBEAR	Proceed with TETRARCH and SEALION to Blyth (Capt. S.2. 1222/13 to WHITEBEAR) Your 1222/13. Tyne now open. Ship proceeding there. (Capt. S.6. 1439/13 to Capt. S.2.)
GARDENIA	Leave convoy and proceed Rosyth with despatch (C. in C., W.A. 1324/13 to GARDENIA)
Orkneys Command	Movements Night 13/14 (A.C.O.S. 1544/13)
ILLUSTRIOUS	Your 2205/12. Sailing approved (C. in C., H.F. 1555/13 to ILLUSTRIOUS) Your 1945/13. Existing arrangements stand (C. in C., 2156/13 to ILLUSTRIOUS)
SCOTTISH HEATHER	Your 1215/13. Will be ready to sail a.m./16 (F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1605/13 to C. in C., Rosyth)

/CIRCASSIA.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.8.1940.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements, Contd.

Portsmouth Command — Night movements signal (C. in C., Portsmouth 1633/13)

Dover Patrols — For night 13/14. (V.A. Dover 1656/13)

HURRICANE — Expect arrive Bar Light Vessel 0930/14. (HURRICANE 1712/13 to N.O.I.C. Liverpool)

Operations

Western Approaches A/S Striking Forces — Your 1828/10. Intend Capt. A/S Operations take charge from Plymouth, visiting Belfast and other Base Ports as required. (C. in C., W.A. 0147/13 to Adty.)

Patrol N.W. of Faroes — Cancel my 2151/12. Continue to patrol till further orders. (C. in C., H.F. 1013/13 to NORFOLK AUSTRALIA)

Sweep off Knockelschmen Gap — 3 destroyers required night 13/14. My 1142/12 and 1150/12. (C. in C., Nore 1120/13 to Adty.)

Operation P.N. — My 1506/12. Operation P.N. to be carried out tonight 13th. Primary object to report movements of enemy vessels. Policy should be not to seek action unless good torpedo targets met, and M.T.B's to keep S. of 52°N (C. in C., Nore 1504/13 and 2001/13 to SO M.T.B's Felixtowe.)

Report of M.T.B. action with 2 drifters, a Dutch Schuyt, and a possible E-Boat at 0225/13 about 270° 15 miles from the Hook. (SO M.T.B's Felixtowe 1911/13 and 1931/13 to C. in C., Nore.)

Submarines

Proposed Submarine Patrol off Outer Hebrides — Request you consider early establishment of submarine patrol to destroy U-Boats. Suggest line 280° from Flannon Island Light and 270° from St. Kilda. (C. in C., 1919/13 to R.A.S.)

/H.44. .....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.8.1940.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines, Contd.

H. 44. Left Harwich 0930/13 to patrol near 52° 50'N 3° 20' E., Proceeding with despatch. (S.N.O. S/M Flotilla Harwich 1036/13)

TALISMAN Arrives Falmouth 0600/14 (C. in C., W.A. 1646/13 to Adty.)

Positions For 24 hours after 0600 /14 Area A (V.A.S. 1654/13) Area B. (V.A.S. 1657/13)

H. 31 After 0800/14, patrol in H.1. and H. 2. North of 53° 15' N., (Capt. S.6. 2207/13)

E-Boats

At 0740/13 in 47° 38' N., 3° 22' W., 4 presumed E-Boats course 180° Aircraft report. (A.C.H.Q. Plymouth 0930/13)

At 1055/13 in 52° 20' N., 2° 45' E., 3 E-Boats stationary and heading West. Air craft report (Chatham A.C.H.Q., 1315/13)

War Diary

13.8.1940.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

Texel	Bombed quaysides of Outer Har our, causing one very large explosion and some 20 smaller ones. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 0350/13)
Zuyder Zee	Bombs dropped on edge of Ede Naval Harbour. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 0350/13)
Helder Naval Base	Between 2200/13 and 0320/13, sixteen 250 lb Bombs and eighteen 25 lb incendiary bombs dropped. Hits observed on Warehouses south of south basin, on flakships and on quayside (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 0740/13)
Arbroath H.N. Air Station	Operation ALERT propose to draw up organisation like that of RANAS No 030 of 21/6 for employment of aircraft at Arbroath as R/C and A/S Force. (RANAS 1231/13 to H.Q.C.C)
Operation 54	As in this H.Q's AP/313/12/8 to be repeated tonight 13/14 (H.Q.C.C. 1640/13)
SAI.A. and S. 16. B.	Cancelled tonight owing to weather. It appears unlikely that any flying will take place North of 59° N., during AM/14. (C. in C., Rosyth 1834/13 to C. in C., H.F)
New Visual Signs	Proposed instruction agreed to, but consider early Meeting of Visual Signal Board most desirable. (Air Ministry 1900/13 to Adty.)
Air Searches	For 14/8. (C. in C., Rosyth 1918/13)
Dortmund Canal	Attacked by 16 Hampdens during night 12/13. Results not observed. (H.Q.B.C. 0633/14)

/Enemy Air Activity.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.8.1940.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy PILOT	Large number of aircraft, course 260° (EGRET 0644/13)
Convoy AGENT	Large number of aircraft, course 270° 10 miles from AGENT. My position 51° 28' N., 0° 57' E., (WOLSEY 0644/13)
Dover. Balloon Barrage	Attacked by aircraft at 0715/13. Four balloons shot down. (V.A.Dover 0904/13)
Balloon Command	Daily operations report at 0700/13. (Balloon Command, 0930/13)
ELIZABETH ANGELA	LL Trawler. Bombed and sunk about 0815/13 while sweeping in the Downs. Some casualties. (V.A.Dover 1056/13 to Adty.)
Convoy LUCCA	Being shadowed by one aircraft at 57° 51' N., 2° 2' W., (Rosyth 2309/13) Aircraft bombing convoy (SKEENA 2326/13)
PORTUGAL	Belgian. Slightly damaged during Air Raid at Cardiff night 12/13. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1820/13 to C. in C., W.A.)
CATHARINA	Dutch, Minesweeper. Damaged by splinters at Cardiff during air raid night 12/13. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1820/13 to C. in C., W.A)
Trawler L.T. 1124	Bombed and machine gunned at 2120/13 in 51° 36' N., 5° 34' W., No damage or casualties. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1652/14 to Adty.)

/Mining.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.8.1940.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Milford Haven	Port closed owing to mines (N.O.i/c Milford Haven 0115/13) Port open to degaussed ships (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1346/13) Mine detonated today off Fishguard north break water (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1912/13) 2 possibly 3 magnetic mines laid in Milford Haven last night. Sweeping carried out to day, no mines exploded. Port Talbot will be closed from sunset tonight until 1000/M (NOIC Milford Haven 2010/13)
Aircraft Report	3 splashes in Y.Z.W.T. 2503 (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 0215/13)
Tyne	2 mines dropped by aircraft off P.W.S.S. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0243/13) Tyne Open. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1424/13)
Clyde	Mines dropped from aircraft. Clyde close to navigation (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 0259/13) Clyde open from 1600/13 (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1401/13)
Rosyth	Port closed between Oxcars and East Gate Inchkeith due to suspected mine laying. anticipated time of opening 0700. Port of Methil is open (C. in C., Rosyth 0305/13) Port of Rosyth is open (C. in C., Rosyth 0639/13)
Belfast	Attempted minelaying by enemy aircraft took place at Stranraer last night, 2 mines dropped on land and exploded (N.O.I.C. Belfast 0932/13)
Fighter escort	For exploratory sweep of 281 Q2. Your 1903/12. Can probably be arranged. Request 24 hours' notice (C. in C., Rosyth 1022/13 to C. in C. H.F.)
Night Sweeping	Sweepers of 4th and 6th flotillas to exercise night sweeping on first night practicable. (C. in C., 1331/13 to F.O.I.C. -Harwich)

/Sweeping arrangements..

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.8.1940.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining. Contd.

Sweeping arrangements

In view of persistent air attack on mine sweepers routine searching sweeps between the Tongue and Beachy Head and in the Portsmouth Command are to be discontinued.

2. Searching sweeps are to be arranged prior to the passage of convoys and as required in connection with operations. These sweeps should be carried out at night whenever possible. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1500/13)

Gardening

For night 13/14 Aug. (H.Q.C.C. 1615/13)

Dropsea Trawler BEN BRACKIE cut mine and sank it 52° 32' North 0° 58' E., Trawler instructed to divert traffic (In War Channel near Shipwash) (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1930/13)

Harwich

Request 12th M/S Flotilla search area radius 3 miles about 52° 32' N., 1° 58' E., (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 2017/13) QUEEN EMPRESS DUCHESS OF FIFE and LORNA DOONE to search (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2130/13)

Controlled minefields in operation outside Harwich. Instructions for entry. (S.O. S.F. Harwich 2225/13)

Enemy Intelligence

At 1024/13 in 58° 7' N., 6° 26' E., one 2000 ton M/V (Donibristle 1410/13)

Lister

At 1015/13, six fishing vessels in line ahead entering Lister Fiord. At 1023/13, 15 miles due west of Lister Fiord, one escort vessel course 170° speed 5 knots. (Donibristle 1410/13)

Lindesnes

At 1019/13, 5 miles due west of Lindesnes Light, one M/V 500 tons, course 350° speed 5 knots (Donibristle 1410/13)

Calais

At 1120/13. 3 minesweepers heading south outside harbour. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1315/13)

/Langesunds Fiord.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.8.1940.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence, Contd.

Langesunds Fiord

3 large ships proceeding to Oslo Fiord (A.C.H.Q. Donibristle 1505/13)

Main German Units

2/8	Wilhelshaven	TIRPITZ completing
2/8	Hamburg	BISMARCK completing
2/8	Bremen	SEYDLITZ completing
12/8	Kiel	SCHARNHORST) in
		GNEISENAU) floating dock
		LUTZOW in dry dock
		One 8" Cruiser in dry dock
	Unknown:-	EMDEN probably repairing
		GRAF ZEPPELIN
		ADMIRAL SCHEER
		One 8" Cruiser
		LEIPZIG
		NURNBERG
		KOLN

(D.D.I.C. 1624/13)

French Ports

R/C of St. Nazaire, Lorient, Brest. Details. Suspect Lorient now used as submarine base as 3 vessels believed submarines moored there. (P.R.U. St. Eval 1815/13)

French Coastal Aerodromes

The heavy constructional activity on aerodromes in France is most marked. (PRU Sortie St. Eval 0027/13)

At 0030/13 in 54° 48' N., 10° E., two M/V's at anchor, 5000 and 3000 tons. No lights showing. (H.Q.B.C. Recd. 0632/14)

Borkum

At 0145/13, S.E. of Borkum, a Light Cruiser at anchor. (H.Q.B.C. Recd. 0632/14)

Report of German Embarkation

Following received from Stockholm. Begins:- Reliable informant has just heard from source in Swedish General Staff that German embarkation along the whole Norwegian Coast began night of 11th August. Not graded. Ends.

This report taken in conjunction with other activities indicate that some definite operation is already in progress. (A.C.N.S. H. 0456/13 ye C's in C.)

/Cape Gris Nez.. .....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.8.1940.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence, Contd.

Cape Gris Nez — PRU Sortie of 13/8 confirms without doubt extensive and accelerated work on major and minor Gun Positions in area of Cape Gris Nez and coast one mile to East and three miles to south. (PIU 0145/14)

Cherbourg — At 2312/13 one medium sized ship 2' from shore. (H.Q.B.C. 1930/14)

Stettiner Hoff — At 2345/13, about 6 stationary ships about 4000 tons (H.Q.B.C. 1930/14)

Shipping

Convoys

OAC 198 — Time at R.V. 0830/14 and longitude Cape Wrath 1500/14. (DEPTFORD 2230/13)

SL 41 — Kinnaird Head 2300 southbound (ACOS 1544/13)

OA 198 — Kinnaird Head 2300 northbound (ACOS 1544/13) Additional escort (C. in C., Rosyth 0752/13)

SL 41 — 7 ships, escort LEEDS UNITED, arrived off Milford Haven, 4 dispersed for Bristol Channel, 3 detained through lack of charts (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 1930/13)

M.V's — Code word for group sailing tonight for Dartmouth is "Robin" (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1847/13)

OA 197 — Position (HIBISCUS 1000/13) to avoid HX62B C. in C., W.A. 1157/13)

OA 198 — Sailed (N.C.S.O. Methil 0821/13) List (N.C.S.O. Methil 0903/13)

OBM 198 — 13 ships will sail last out 1915/14. Escort (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 1035/10)

HG 41 — Extract from sailing telegram (D.T.D., 1022/13 1302/13)

OB 197 — List (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 0930/13)

HG 40 EM — 10 ships escort WESTCOTT, arrived (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 1158/13)

SL 43 — Extract from sailing telegram (DTD 1333/13)

5 M.V's — Leaving needles 2130 for Dartmouth arriving 0700, close escort MALAHNE and OSTA, covering escort SARDONYX and STUPDY. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1633/13)

WN 8 — To sail 0600/16 Request air escort (FOIC Greenock 1436/13)

MOST SECRET

13.8.1940.
Tuesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping Contd.,

GOTEBORG — Admty. 1846/22, para one. Your Tel. passed to Berlin. It is hoped on all sides that GOTEBORG will sail as arranged at 0500/15 message in same sense being sent to Swedish Minister London.

Re Para two, further reply will be made later but most likely HUNTER survivors could be repatriated in GOTEBORG observing that agreement between Swedish and German Governments is understood toconcern internees only. (N.A. Stockholm, 1352/13)

Channel Traffic — Arrangements for maintenance of mercantile traffic in the Channel:-
A Ships to proceed by night hops in escorted small groups between Falmouth and Portsmouth and vice versa, calling at Dartmouth and Portland, and being afforded such anti- E-Boat protection is available. Convoys to be run between Portsmouth and the Thames and ~~Thames~~Humber vice versa on approx. eight-day cycle. Convoys to be limited to twelve ships. Tonnage and speed limits to remain as at present,
(B) Escort for convoys to consist of Hunt class destroyer and three trawlers by day and, in addition, four M.A/S.Boats and two French T.B's by night.
(C) Ships in convoy to fly kites. Balloon barrage will not be used but balloon barrage vessels fitted with kites and additional guns will reinforce the escorts.
(D) Route for night hops will be present coastal route using Needles Channel as soon as it can be opened. Intended that new route for convoys should be closer inshore than at present.
(E- To allow time for arming balloon barrage vessels the provision of gun shields and other protection in merchant ships, night hops to the eastward are to start from Falmouth on 17/8 ships being accompanied by balloon barrage vessels. Thereafter, night hops in both directions may be run between Falmouth and Portsmouth at the discretion of C. in C., Portsmouth and W.A., whenever escort is available.
(F) C.E. 9 from Portsmouth to Southend to start on 20/8.
(A.C.N.S. (H) 1939/13)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.8.1940.
Tuesday

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

TOBAGO — Latvian, 770 tons, reported ashore at 55° 44' N., 6° 30' W., HIGHWOOD standing by and requests salvage tug. (LEITH 0353/13 to N.O.I.C. Greenock) Sailed Tug SALVONIA (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0659/13 to Adty.) Expected total wreck (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1044/14 to Adty.)

BHIMA — British, 5280 tons, due Capetown 9/8, has not arrived (30 l. Capetown 1028/13 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.8.1940.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

General

Raider Activities

Summary (I.C. 0541/40) of activities of German raiders now at sea. Conclusion is at least four are now at sea with attendant supply ships. Raider A must have left Germany early April, remainder early June. Ship reported off St. Helena 5/8 cannot be fitted into the picture and may be an additional or Raider D with dummy funnel. Summary of sinkings:-

A. HAXBY, wetward of Azores, about 4/4.
SCIENTIST, lost between Durban and Freetown, 27/4- 10/5.
TIRANA, Melbourne to Mombasa, between 30/5 and 18/6.
Mines laid off C. Agulhas caused loss of NIAGARA 18/6.
TROPIC SEA, Sydney to Panama, overdue since 14/7.
CITY OF BAGDAD "shelled" by raider 11/7 overdue at Penang.
KHEDIVE DINE, overdue at Rangoon since 18/7
RIDANGER, overdue since 22/7, but now reported arrived San Pedro., U.S.A.

B. BRITISH PETROL, sink 14/6.
DAVISION, sunk 10/7.
KING JOHN, sunk 13/7.
(B. could have been vessel met by ALCANTARA)

C. GRACEFIELD, Montevideo to Freetown, overdue since 24/7. (Raider engaged by ALCANTARA, 28/7)

D. KERTOSONO overdue at Freetown since 5/7, intercepted 1/7.
DOMINGO DE LARRINAGA 31/7.
DELAMBRE (10/7)
BRUGES (14/7)
TELA (22/7)
All overdue Freetown, in vicinity on the dates mentioned, but could also have been intercepted by Raider C.

/North Atlantic.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.8.1940.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

BELOWN	Route. (F.O.C.N.A. to WORCESTERSHIRE, FORFAR, LAURENTIC 2258/13)
Convoy	Request arrival of ships in H.G. (?) 40 carrying Gibraltarens may be reported to allay rumours. (F.O.C.N.A., 1702/13)
Force H.	R.V. at 1800/16 (F.O. Force H., 1506/13)
	Admty. 0255/13 Wish to stress importance of having a second R.D.F. ship in Force H., to decrease liability to surprise air attacks. (F.O.Force H., 1511/13)
	Intend taking Force H., into Atlantic to accompany reinforcements from U.K. for last 2 days of their passage to Gibraltar in order to exercise ships. (Dates) Request confirmation that reinforcements will sail to comply with this programme. (F.O. Force H., 1508/13 to Admty.)

South Atlantic

SUMATRA	Dutch cruiser. Asking (C. in C., A.W.I's 1232/8) if she has sailed for Freetown yet (C. in C., S.A. to S.N.O., Trinidad, 1810/13)
Overdue Ships	British BHIMA due Capetown 9/8 not arrived (S.O.I. Capetown 1028/13)
	Norwegian TALLYRAND, due Capetown 9/8 not arrived (S.O.I. Capetown 1618/13)
Troop Transport	N.O.I.C. Durban, 1125/7/8, re INCHANGA to be diverted to Colombo to disembark troops INCHANGA scheduled to load 900 tons copper at Beira. Propose therefore 1 Officer and 120 other ratings on arrival Durban in TINHOW be sent by train to Capetown to join convoy W.S. 2 A sailing (date) direct for Egypt. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1128/13)
BALTANIA	Roumanian. My 1745/11 (OLTUL to be sent to Freetown under armed guard) OLTUL reported arrived Pernambuco and not yet sailed from that port. (C. in C., S.A. 1914/13)

/Raider Report.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.8.1940.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

Raider Report — Following report believe planted. ALCANTARA's raider reached Italian port. Raider supposed to be NIGSBERG left as early as possible for Azores and Las Palmas to supply three large Italian submarines to work off South America. (N.A., Buenos Aires 1935/13)

ENTERPRISE — Requesting sail ENTERPRISE to join S.A. Station vice HAWKINS temporarily so that HAWKINS may refit. (D.O.D. (F) to F.O. Force H. 0307/13) Date of enterprise sailing from Gibraltar (F.O. Force H., 1526/13)

Mediterranean

Operation "Hats" — Suggesting aircraft from ILLUSTRIOUS carry out moonlight or dawn bombing of certain bases. (F.O. Force H., 1603/13) (See Mediterranean Volume)

Operation I B.S. KENT — Operation intended for 1st B.S. and KENT (C. in C., Med., 1953/13) (See Mediterranean Volume)

PORQUAL — To establish patrol in 35° 00' N., 17° 22' E (C. in C., Med., 2027/13)

Reinforcement YORK AJAX NEPTUNE — Your 1209/11. Decided that all M.T. ships and a personnel ship will proceed round the Cape. VALIANT will embark A.A. guns for Malta as previously arranged. Essential M.T. ships should make as quick a passage to Suez as possible and subsequently are being divided into 2 groups, 1 of 18 knots escort YORK; 1 of 16 knots, escort AJAX, both to sail with VALIANT (date) ARGUS will accompany Group 2 as far as Freetown. AJAX being sent you to replace NEPTUNE as former has latest type of R.D.F. and latter has been in commission 3 years. If you can spare NEPTUNE on arrival of KENT would be helpful. She should return to U.K. via Cape. Requestvyou provide any additional escort for passage of groups 1 and 2 through Red Sea. (1st S.L. to C. in C., Med., 0255/13

Your 0255/13.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.8.1940.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean, Contd.

Your 0255/13. Suggesting NEPTUNE be sailed through Mediterranean not by 4 destroyers to Gibraltar in connection with operation "Hats". (C. in C., Med., 1123/13 to Admty.)

Air

Enemy Intelligence

Air reconnaissance of East Coast of Sicily p.m. /13 reported:-

Augusta 1 destroyer 8 large and 15 small M.V's and 20 flying boats.

Syracuse 15 to 20 small M.V's (DS 344)

Shipping Augusta

Attack on concentration of shipping Augusta Harbour carried out 2330/13 by 9 aircraft of 830 squadron 3 armed torpedoes and 6 armed bombs. Result torpedo fire not observed, possibly some bomb hits on group of small vessels. 2 Torpedo aircraft missing 3rd torpedo aircraft forcelanded in the sea near Delimara due to holed petrol tank. Crew saved. Strong A.A. fire encountered. (F.O.I.C., Malta 1247/14 1651/14)

Italian news announced one torpedo aircraft shot down, crew of 2 prisoners.

Mining

Sardinia

Italian P.L. Broadcast reports mines adrift in 40° 39' N., 08° 04' E., W. Coast of Sardinia (DS 344)

East Indies

Troop Convoys

Brief summary of large troop movements converging on Egypt in next few months. (D. of S.T. to F.S.T.O., Bombay, 2132/13) (See Operation Volume)

Raider

Appreciation of situation and comment on C.O.S. Singapore 0427/12, and Admty., 1514/12 (C. in C., E.I. 04402/13)

/PETRAKIS NOKOMIS.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.8.1940.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies, Contd.

PETRAKIS NOMIKOS — My 1728/8. Greek PETRAKIS NOMIKOS arrived Basra 11/8. Full enquiry being made from N.C.S.O. Basra (C. in C., E.I. 07422/13)

B.S. 3. — My 0802/9. Is it yet known whether B.S. 3. will evacuate service families to India. If so, how many ships will be used for them? (C. in C., E.I., 08022/13)

El Sheikh Bombarded — AUKLAND and KIMBERLEY bombarded a target to N.W. of El Sheikh, 10° 27' N., 44° 15' W., a.m. /13 indicated by a Blenheim aircraft's bomb. Troops and lorries dispersed. Army considered this held up enemy advance on Bulhar. (C. in C., E.I. 15122/13)

Floating Mine — Destroyed by CHAKINA in 10.42' N., 44.54' E at 08052/13 (C. in C., E.I. 15122/13)

Air

Berbera Bombed — CARLISLE reports Berbera bombed 05142/12 Nearest bombs 100 yards from British transport AKBAR. No damage. (C. in C., E.I., 15242/13)

2 machine gun attacks by two Italian fighters on aerodrome 13/8. During second attack at 1345 G.M.T. CARLISLE disabled one aircraft which landed near aerodrome. Pilot captured. No damage or casualties. (C. in C., E.I., 02502/14)

EL HAK — British ship EL HAK 1022 tons bombed and abandoned aground one mile south of Kamaran entrance. All crew safe except one arab missing (S.N.O., Red Sea 16372/13)

/China.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.8.1940.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

Dutch Navy Proposals

My 0835/12/7. Inquiry re views for Dutch East Indies. Proposals re Dutch Navy in event of war with another Power. eg Japan (C. in C., China, 0931Z/13) (See Operation Volume)

Piracy. SHINHWA

On 8/8 at 0520 when leaving Hunghwa Sound SS SHINHWA pirated by 60 to 80 Chines soldiers who boarded from SS KYUZYU flying Japanese flag. Passengers robbed and large part of cargo transferred pirate junks. Japanese armed trawler No 14 passed close by on 9/8 but did not render assistance. At 0930/10 Japanese destroyer MURAKAMO arrived and sent boarding party which removed remaining pirates but made no attempt to disarm them. SHINHWA arrived Shanghai p.m. 12/8, no casualties. N.L.O. taking matter up with Japanese authorities in Shanghai. Attitude of Japanese contrary to written statement made by V.A. Iwamura in his letter -of 14/3/1940. (S.O.I., Shanghai, 0635Z/13)

ARAWA DANAE

My 0445/11. ARAWA is to escort convoy throu Formosa Channel and then order ships to proceed independently to Singapore. DANAE to provide cover after dispersal as far south as Paracel Island. ARAWA to proceed Fremantle by Makasser and Lombok Strait, where she will be required for escort duty. (date) (C. in C., China, 0907Z/13)

Propaganda

Re lack of transmitting facilities. Present resources leave us far behind our competitors (C. in C., China, to Admty., 0929/13)

Evacuations

Your 1537/12. Booking for families made in British TANDA. Date of leaving Shanghai. Your 0443/13. Earliest dates, ESANG, WINGSANG HOSANG will be ready to leave. (R.N.O., Shanghai, to Cdre. i/c, Hong Kong, 1200Z/13)

French Indo-China

Japanese requests. Refusal by Gov. General approaching Petain Govt. Situation satisfactory. (L.O. Saigon, 0846/13)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.8.1940.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

S.C. 1. — Admty. 2013/30/7. Owing to delayed date of H.V. 40 ships have accumulated for S.C.1. and it is intended to sail this number 15/8 with Adm. H.H. Smith as Commodore. (C.O.A.C. 1014/13)

French Submarines — Master of ISLAND QUEEN just returned Trinidad from Martinique with repatriated French seamen from French ship LANGUEDOC reports 4 or 5 submarines present on 9/8. (C. in C., A.W.I., 0943/13)

T.C. 7. — Admty. 2313/12 and my 1007/13. Confirm ANTONIA not included in T.C. 7. which now consists of SCYTHIA, CORONSAY, GEORGIC, DUCHESS OF YORK, EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA and if possible PASTEUR. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1151/13)

My 1151/ Military now state owing to difficulties of clearing Halifax of evacuees arriving 19/8, etc., impossible to have troops embarked for sailing T.C. 7. before (date) (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1629/13)

PASTEUR — Date of sailing (D. of S.T. 2151/13)

Newfoundland Defences — Your 1316/9 Re defence measures for Newfoundland. N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 0953/13 to C. in C., A.W.I.)

S.C. 2. — Your 1720/12. R.V. in N.W. Approaches will be promulgated to suit your requirements as far as possible. (D.T.D. to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa 1641/13)

Australia

PERTH — N.Z.N.B. 0043Z/13. Confirmed PERTH will be available in S.E. Australia area (A.C.N.B. 0747Z/13)

/New Zealand.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.8.1940.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

New Zealand

ACHILLES — A.C.N.B. 07592/12. N.Z. Govt. agree ACHILLES only forms trans-Tasman escort on understanding that PERTH will be held immediately available to add in support in case of necessity. (N.Z.N.B. 00432/13)

ORCADES
N.Z.Troops — Under consideration to send 306 N.Z. troops for U.K. in ORCADES, understood to be proceeding from Bombay to U.K. via Cape after service with U.S. 4. Request that escort if any proposed for ORCADES to Cape and Sierra Leone. (N.Z.N.B. 22422/13)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.8.1940.
Tuesday

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

ALABAMA — Maracaibo reports refloated 11/8, will probably be towed to Las Piedra shortly. (S.O.I. Kingston, 1046/13)

RAFFIO — Consul Malaga, reports Cartagena 0001/13. RAFFIO departed unexpectedly unknown destination probably with cargo of scrap iron for Italy. (S.O.I., Gib., 2125/13)

SEMIEN — Believed to be at Dakar. (DS344)

FEDERA — At Corunna 9/8, preparing to unload her cargo. (DS 344)

LIBANO — Prize, from Gibraltar, arrived Londonderry 12/8 after having been machine gunned by a German Heinkel 40 m. W. of Donegal. (DS 344)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.8.1940.
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

1 about 100 miles East of Azores a.m./12 may be southbound but is more probably the U/Boat returning from Cape de Verde Islands estimated yesterday to have advanced to 50° W., 1 in Lorient. I in Western Approaches or Bay of Biscay. 2 or 3 in North West Approaches. Probably 1 in Minches North bound. (D.D.I.C. 1209/13)

Submarines Attacked

1804 An ever enemy submarine which has dived. position 60.47. N., 2.22 W., (A/C of H.M. ship 1803/13) Have attacked enemy with dive bombs, estimate no hits. Enemy course 225 (A/C of H.M. Ship 1804/13)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.8.1940.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Operation E.D. — Harwich destroyers under Captain D.16 in MALCOLM last night carried out a sweep off the Texel to destroy light forces engaged in maintaining swept channel.

Early this morning MALCOLM and VERITY engaged 6 trawlers and 3 E-Boats and believed they sank one trawler and one E-Boat before the latter retired behind smoke screen. MALCOLM and VERITY were unhit.

Operation F.N. — A sweep off the mouths of the Maas and Scheldt was carried out last night to report movements of enemy vessels.

M.T.B's off Sunk — Two M.T.B's waited at the sunk L.V. last night to intercept enemy minelayers.

Attack on Convoy — E-Boats last night unsuccessfully attacked with torpedoes a convoy covered by WITHERINGTON and VOLUNTEER

Patrol off Faroes — NORFOLK and AUSTRALIA are still on patrol North of the Faroes.

AJAX — At Scapa has damaged her stern in collision and will require up to 7 days for repairs which are to be effected at Liverpool.

Escort for A.M.C's on Northern Patrol — C. in C., Home Fleet considers it necessary for the A.M.C's of the Northern Patrol to be escorted through the submarine danger area in the North Western Approaches and suggests that the 18th D.F. should operate from Greenock, two of the destroyers being available for escorting the A.M.C's. Escort of A.M.C's of Western Patrol is equally necessary, but it may be practicable to achieve this by linking them with the existing convoy organisation.

23rd D.F. — The 23rd Destroyer Flotilla has been constituted from 6 French Torpedo boats, one of which is manned by the Dutch Navy.

/BRITISH AIR .....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.8.1940.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

Aircraft of Bomber Command last night attacked seaplane bases at Brest, St. Brieuc Querqueville and Dinant, and other targets. No definite results were observed.

Two aircraft reached Stettin last night in spite of unfavourable weather. Visibility was poor and searchlights dazzling, but so far as could be seen there were no large concentrations of shipping there.

Enemy Air Activity

It is estimated that about 600 enemy aircraft were engaged in operations over Great Britain between 1800/13 and 1800/14

In an air raid on Portland about 1700 today damage was caused to the Naval Dockyard and the main water supply to the dockyard from the Council was cut.

Enemy dive bombers sank Folkestone Gate Light Vessel today, killing 2 of the crew of 7 and wounding the remainder. Seven barrage balloons were shot down at Dover.

Slight damage was caused at Aberdeen and at Yeovilton aerodrome.

There is evidence that the enemy are using torpedo dropping aircraft.

Mining

It is suspected that mines were dropped last night north of Port Glasgow/Dumbarton Channel. The river to east of Greenock was reopened at 1230 today.

A mine was detonated during night sweep in the Swin.

Cropsea trawler LORD MELCHET was damaged by a mine when hauling sweep near 54 Buoy (Harwich area)

/ No mines.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.8.1940.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Mining. Contd.

No mines were seen to drop at Milford Haven last night but those dropped on previous night were yet exploded. The port was open from 1051 to sunset.

Italian Hostilities

It is reported that during the air raid on Dernia on 3/8 one cruiser and one destroyer were damaged and are being sent to Taranto or Spezia for repairs.

32 out of 35 Whitley aircraft from Brooklands attacked targets at Turin and Milan at 0100 today and caused considerable damage to aircraft and other works, and it is thought, destroyed a railway bridge on the Milan-Venice line.

LIVERPOOL, GLOUCESTER and one destroyer sailed from Alexandria at 2000 today, sweeping towards the East of Crete.

KIMBERLEY was bombed today off Somaliland but was not hit.

Foreign Stations

reported at 2245 that

SS KORANTON (British) bound from Liverpool to Philadelphia, she was being followed by a suspicious vessel 900 miles E.S.E. of Halifax.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.8.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Rescue of Airmen by A/P Organisation

S.O. A/P's to be instructed to render every help in their power. Duty Boats ready for sea at instant notice should be available at all bases. (A.C.N.S. 1542/14 to C., in C's)

French Torpedo Boats as 23rd D.F.

BRAILLEBAS, L'INCOMPTISE, LA CORDELIERE, LA MELPOMENE, LA FLORE, and DOUCLIER (manned by Dutch Navy) to be administered by Capt. D. 1., operated by C. in C., Portsmouth, and known as 23rd D.F. (D.C.D. H. 1041/41 to R.A.D. H.F.)

CURACOA

Your 1440/12. If CURACOA used, enemy will probably disable her. Felt your requirement would be best met by HUNT class destroyers. (A.C.N.S. H. 1913/14 to C. in C., Nore.)

Defence of U.K.

DEVONSHIRE

Revert to 3 hours notice for steam. (C. in C., H.F. 0012/14 to C.S.1.)

Anti-Invasion Patrols

S.A. 1. H., and Wick to Muckle Flugga now in operation. (C. in C., Rosyth 0520/14 to C. in C., H.F.)

Reported German Troop Embarkations

Confirmation by Norwegians from Bergen (N.O.I. C. Lerwick, 1335/14 to Adty. (S.O.I. Lerwick 1646/14 to Adty.)

Shetlands

Your 0932/11 and 0852/12. 4-inch Guns and Mountings, with 80 rounds per gun, being sent to Aberdeen for onward shipment. (D. of L.D. 1830/14 to F.O.C.S.)

Portsmouth Balloon Barrage

8 additional Balloons urgently required in Barges at Fareham and Porchester Lakes to counter dive-bombing of Dockyard from northward. (C. in C., Portsmouth 2007/14 to Adty.)

Dover Balloon Barrage

Request consideration be given to extending Dover Balloon Barrage to cover new Gun Emplacements. (V.A.Dover 1934/14 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.8.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

ILLUSTRIOUS — Sailed from Clyde 0800 escorted by HAVELOCK, ATHERSTONE, ECLIPSE. Expect arrive Scapa 0500/15. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0932/14 to Admty.)

ARGUS — Arrived Clyde. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0932/14)

NORFOLK / AURORA — Request air co-operation may continue till patrol cancelled. (C. in C., Rosyth) Sunderland Aircraft to co-operate with you to-morrow 15th (C. in C., Rosyth 1934/14 to NORFOLK)

Nore Command — Day Patrols and movements to 1200/15 (C. in C., Nore 1200/14)

Dock Kil — My 1250/8 and your 1724/8. Dock ready leave Tyne a.m./20th Request 2 destroyers may arrived Rosyth a.m./18 and 2 more a.m. 19 for convoy duty 19th and 20th respectively. STORK, LOWESTOFT, LONDONDERRY, and HORNET and 3 trawlers, will escort Dock. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1301/14 to C. in C., H.F. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1317/14 to C. in C., Rosyth.) (C. in C., Rosyth 1833/14 to Admyt N.C.S.O. Methil)

Portsmouth — Night movement signal for 14/15. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1357/14)

EAGLE — My 1611/9 Delayed by defects. Expect ready for sea 2000/15. (C. in C., W.A. 1359/14 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

A.M.C's of Northern Patrol — Consider necessary arrange for escort through submarine danger area in N.W. Approaches. Suggest 12th D.F. operate as a whole from Greenock, providing 2 destroyers as required for this escort. Request your remarks. (C. in C., H.F. 1421/14 to C. in C., W.A.)

Dover — Patrols fo night 14/15 (V.A.Dover 1602/14)

/Fleet Tenders.....

MOST SECRET

14.3.1940.
Wednesday.

For Diary

HOME CONTAINED

Movements, Contd.

Fleet Tenders	My 1535/11. Tenders again dragging in moderate gale. Request steaming parties be sent to Scapa for the three tenders and that I be informed where they are to be sent. (C. in C., H.F. 1656/14 to Adty.) Your 1656/14. Steaming parties are being sent. Further instructions will be sent. (D.D.O.D. H. 2256/14 to C. in C., H.F.)
3rd D.F.	If no enemy report received by 0300/15 and if not in contact, return to Scapa. (R.A.D. H.F. 2340/14 to Capt., D. 3rd D.F., ESCAPADE, CATTISTOCK, FIREDRAKE)
KIPLING	From Rosyth, expect arrive Scapa 0300/15. (R.A.D. H.F. 2344/14)
MATCHLAM	To Rosyth, leaves Scapa 0045/15. (R.A.D. H.F. 2344/14)
AJAX	Your 1852/14. Can be taken in hand Queens Graving Dock, Liverpool. (D.D.O.D. H. 2365/14 to C. in C., H.F.)

Operations

Patrol T.	Cancel my 1947/13. Patrol T to be carried out tonight by 3 Harwich Destroyers. (C. in C., Nore 0951/14 to F.O.I.C. Harwich.)
Interception of Enemy Minelayers	Two 60 feet M.T.B's to arrive at Sunk Light Vessel by 2300/14, patrol close by and return base at daylight. (C. in C., Nore 1300/14 to S.O. M.T.B's Felixstowe)
Outer Hebrides Proposed Submarine Patrol	Concur in proposal (See C. in C., H.F. 1919/13 to R.A.S) But suggest patrol would be better placed further North to be clear of Convoy Route. (C. in C., W.A. 2044/14 to C. in C., H.F.)

/Submarines.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.8.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines

Positions — For following 24 hours at 0600/15. Area A. (V.A.D. 1057/14) Area B. (V.A.D. 1059/14)

E-Boats

Unknown E-Boat 130° Nab Tower (Portsmouth W/T 0254/14) By 0254. Unknown E-Boat 180° Owers (Portsmouth W/T 0345/14)

Encounter with trawlers & E-Boats — From 0200 till 0230 MALCOLM and VERITY engaged six trawlers and three E-Boats with main armaments and pom-poms. Three hits. One trawler and one E-Boat thought sunk. Torpedo track observed. No hits on MALCOLM, VERITY. Enemy retired behind smoke screen when illuminated. (Capt. D.16 1040/14 to C. in C., Nore)

Convoy Attacked — One enemy vessel, class and bearing unknown my position 230° Portland Bill 18 miles. (WITHERINGTON 2338/14) Am covering convoy Make enemy report. (WITHERINGTON 2344/14) to VOLUNTEER) Have been attacked by Boat at 230° Portland 14 (?) miles. 2 Torpedo tracks seen. No hits. Am rejoing convoy. (VOLUNTEER 2345/14 to C. in C., W.A.)

British Air Activity

Balloon Command — Daily Operations Report at 0700/14. (H.Q. Balloon Command 1305/14)

Operation No 84 — As in this H.Q.s AP/310/12/3 to be repeated tonight 14/15. (H.Q.C.C. 1310/14 to 16 group)

At 1435/14 two small M/V's at 58° 50' N., 5° 30' E., on course for Stavanger attacked with M/C. No casualties observed. (Donibristle 1747/14)

Air Searches — For 15/8. (C. in C., Rosyth 1830/14)

Enemy Aerodromes Attacked — During night 13/14, four Blenheims attacked aerodromes in N.W. France, and Seaplane bases at Brest, St. Brieut, Querqueville and Dinant. (H.Q.B.C. 1930/14.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.8.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity

Aberdeen	Aircraft from North dropped Incendiary bombs near Fort Torry and in water at Harbour entrance. Fire in Gasworks near beach Ballroom now extinguished. (C. in C., Rosyth 0135/14 to Adty.)
Convoy DEAGA	One aircraft shadowing. My position 56° 36' N., 10° 31' W., course 272° speed 8 knots (LEITH 1338/14)
Folkestone Data Light Vessel	Sunk by dive bombing. Suggest replacement by Float or Buoy. (V.A. Dover 1344/14 to Adty.) Two of crew of seven killed and five wounded. Sunk at 1230 today. 7 Barrage Balloons also shot down. (V.A. Dover, 1601/14 to Adty.)
Torpedo-dropping Aircraft	Positive evidence of use by enemy. At least 3 attacks, of which two during this August. (A.C.N.S. M. 1346/14 to C's in C.,) ("A" Message: D.N.A.D. 1342/15)
Portland	Air-raid at 1700/14 by 3 aircraft. Bombs on dockyard. Damage to buildings. Fuelling tug CARBON, slightly damaged. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1911/14 to Adty.) KINGFISHER damaged by splinters above water, and port propeller shaft suspected bent (F.O.I.C. Portland 2303/14) Details of damage to Dockyard (O.C. W.H.M. Naval Base, Portland 1135/15)
Yeovilton	Attack 1815 by one aircraft. Slight damage to aerodrome. (R.A.F.N.A.S. 2016/14)

Mining

Clyde	River closed from Dowling to Greenock. Mines suspected dropped at 0010/14 north of Port Glasgow/Dumbarton Channel. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 0814/14 to Adty.) River to E. of Greenock reopened from 1230 (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1233/14 to Adty.)
Thames Estuary	One red mine detonated during night sweep 320° N.E. Swin Light Vessel 3 miles. (C. in C., Nore, 0937/14)
253.116	My 2105/13. Western half of 253. 116 is now open. (C. in C., Nore, 0939/14 to N.C.S.O. Thames)

/Milford Haven.....

MOST SECRET

14.8.1940.

Ver Diary

Kodnendrz.

NAVAL CONTRACTS

Mining. Contd.

Milford Haven — Port now open. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1021/14 to Adty.) No mines seen dropped last night but those dropped previous night not yet exploded. Port will be closed from sunset tonight until 1000/15 (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1305/18 to Adty)

CACHALOT — Should be sailed, when ready, to carry out Operation ED 24. (A.C.N.S. H. 1907/14 to V.A.S.) Orders for amended operation E.D. 24. (V.A.S. 1939/14 to Capt S. 7.)

Operation ML 14 — Propose to carry out, amended as follows. (R.A.M.L. 2031/14 to Adty.)

PORPOISE — Ready sail early next week. Prefer her not to lay in close waters during full moon period. Request your views. (V.A.S. 2382/14 to C. in C., H.F.)

LORD MELCHETT — Cropsea Trawler. Damaged by Mine when hauling sweep 300 yards 135° from 54 Buoy on 14/8. Ship requires docking. No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1344/18 to Adty.)

Enemy Intelligence

Norwegian Coast — 2 Cargo Boats and some small boats seen by aircraft between 1210 and 1332/14. (Denibristle 1620/14)

2 Cargo Boats 1000 to 2000 tons at Nord Fiord; one M/V about 3000 tons in Novde Fiord; Hospital ship off Eidsan, south of Novde Fiord; about 20 small ships in various small ports; but no accumulation at any one point. (Denibristle 1650/14) 2 M/V's at 61° 12' N., 4° 50' E., and 61° 15' N., 4° 45' E., respectively (Denibristle 1833/14)

Skagerrak — At 1430/14, one M/V about 3000 tons entering the Roads (Denibristle 1747/14)

Belgium — At 0001/14, four narrow ships, believed destroyers (H.Q.B.C. 1930/14)

MOST SECRET

14.8.1940,
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping.

Convoys

SL. 41 Passing Kinnaird Head (SCREEN 0015/14)

Routes Alternative routes for homeward bound convoys when conditions in Minche are unfavourable. (C. in C., W.A. 2307/14)

MOST SECRET

14.8.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

DIRECTOR — British, 5107 tons, from Freetown, overdue at Capetown since 11th August. (S.O.I. Capetown 1130/14 to Adty.)

CLAN RONALD — British, 5447 tons, from Liverpool, overdue at Capetown since 11th August. (S.O. I. Capetown 1130/14)

[illegible] — British, 4897/tons, Cardiff to Bombay, not reported at Cape of Good Hope. (S.O. I Capetown 1130/14)

AJAX — Stem damaged. Ship will require docking. Estimate repairs up to 7 days. (C. in C., H.F. 1800/14 to Adty.) Reporting how damage occurred (HAIAD dragged in gale at Scapa and collided with AJAX) (C. in C., -1229/16)

OILTRADER — Damaged 11/8. Leaves Harwich in tow of 3 tugs at 0500/15 for London, escorted by GUILLEMOT. Request Fighter protection (C. in C., Nore 1858/14 to H.Q.F.C.)

BLAIRGLOVA — British, 5083 tons damaged by aircraft in convoy on 10/8, has arrived at Holyhead. (D.S. 344)

EIDANGER — Norwegian Tanker. 9438 tons, reported overdue at Singapore since 22nd July, has arrived at San Pedro California. (D.S.344)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.8.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

GALLANT — To return to Gibraltar with despatch (F.O.C.N.A. 1017/14)

Force H
ARK ROYAL
Destroyers — Your 1506/13. As amended R.V. will entail such a high speed of advance that flying practices will not be possible, propose ARK ROYAL remain in harbour carrying out practice next week. 4 destroyers will be sent to meet you at amended R.V. (W.A.A., to S.O. Force H., 1022/14)

R.A.A. 1022/14. HOTSPUR, GREYHOUND, GALLANT, ENCOUNTER, ordered to R.V. in 41.00 N., 21.00 W., at 1800/16. (F.O.C.N.A. 1540 A/14)

Enemy Propaganda — Your 1532/12, reputation of enemy propaganda re blockade of France. Proposals being considered. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1344/14 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Evacuees — Your 1702/13. All ships carrying Gibraltarians arrived safely (D. of S.T. to F.O.C.N.A. 1461/14)

Iron Ore Shipments — Ministry of shipping anxious to send limited number of ships to Melilla, Almeira and Hornillo to load iron ore for U.K. Request your views regarding desirability of movement between these ports and Gibraltar. Should you consider movement practicable please indicate maximum number of ships for these destinations which could be accepted in each O.G. Convoy. Majority of ships allocated would be of about two to three thousand tons gross but a few would be larger. (D.T.D. 1939/14 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Polish Evacuees — Contact and keep touch Military Attache re future evacuation of Polish Forces from France. (Ad. of M. 76 N.A. Lisbon 2038/14)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.8.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic. Contd.

French Relations

Telegrams No 240 and 241 from Consul General, Tangier, to Governor, Gibraltar, 1325/11, Contain information from French sources re attitude towards convoy for Marseilles and possible French attack on Gibraltar. (Received from D.N.I., 1132/14) (See Mediterranean Volume)

South Atlantic

Dakar Germans

Bathurst reports daily radio announcements morning and evening 12/8 all Germans had left Dakar. Elsewhere no change in situation (G.O.C. West Africa, Accra, 0130/14 to W.O.)

ENTERPRISE HAWKINS

My 1016/13 and F.O. Force H., 1536/13 ENTERPRISE date of sailing from Freetown. You may prefer to proceed in HAWKINS to Cape and return to U.K. in fast mail steamer. (C. in C., S.A. to R.A.S.A.D., 1057/14)

ALCANTARA

As large majority British shipping on South American routes appears to be in J 34, ALCANTARA should move up to this square, unless she received other instructions from you. (C. in C., S.A. to R.A.S.A.D., 1112/14)

Calls at Capetown

Ships bound from U.K. to Durban are in some cases being instructed to call at Cape Town for orders. In view of Admty/s 2027/34/2 this seems unnecessary. Reference to Cape Agulhas signal station should be deleted from their instructions as deep sea traffic passes well to the outside of Agulhas Bank. (N.O.I.C., Simonstown 1507/14)

French Ports

My 0731/19/7. Cancel para one (South Atlantic) and substitute instructions given in my 1301 27th July (ii) substitute new para 3 to read "EAST INDIES" (a) French India no restrictions (b) French Somaliland Madagascar and Reunion: Ships are not made use of" (C. in C., S.A 2120/14)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.8.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic, Contd.

Overdue ships

DIRECTOR, due Capetown 11/8 from Freetown not arrived.

CLAN RANALD, due Capetown 11/8 from Liverpool not arrived.

INVERNESS, Cardiff for Bombay, not reported at Cape. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1138/14)

Mails, Censorship

All mails inward and outward are required to be removed from all neutral ships calling at Freetown and sent to England by first British opportunity for examination. Can you make necessary arrangements if not what staff or other facilities required. (D.N.I. 1942/14 to S.O. (I) Freetown)

ARGUS

My 1611/13 and my 0003/8. Final destination of ARGUS is Takoradi. (D.O.D. (F) 2346/14)

Mediterranean

NEPTUNE
Berbera

Your 1123/13. NEPTUNE is required for operations against raiders whilst she is on passage home (1st S.L., to C. in C., Med., 0053/14)

Admty. 0255/13 and 0053/14. NEPTUNE will leave Suez 17/8 for Aden. (C. in C., Med., 1101/14) Amended to 16/8 (C. in C., Med., 1937/15) My 1101/14. C. in C., M.E., urgently requested battalion may be moved to Berbera. Intended NEPTUNE do this, leaving Suez p.m. 16/8. (C. in C., Med., 1406/14) Cancelled (C. in C., Med., 1213/15)

Cruiser Commands

In view of a.m. 2019/17/7 Tovey has ceased to be R.A. (D) and it is not clear how 7th C.S. as given in your 1631/10 can join Destroyer Command which does not now exist. It is not clear who is to command the new 3rd and 7th C.S. as given in you 1631/10 (1st S.L. to C. in C., Med., 0053/14) (Reply 1307/15)

/Syria.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.8.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean. Contd.

Syria.

Consul General, Beirut's telegram 86 to F.O. Do not consider it desirable that these reinforcements should leave Syria unless they are allowed to do so in their own ships. If they leave now it will complicate removal of ships in due course. Nor do I think this small concession suffices against advantages claimed in return (C. in C., Med., 1041/14)

Convoys

Admty. 0855/13, para (h) If informed in good time when these convoys will pass Aden, destroyer will be sent. (C. in C., Med. 1947/14)

Sweep

LIVERPOOL, GLOUCESTER and one destroyer sailed from Alexandria 2000/14 sweeping towards E. of Crete. (D.O.R. 15/8)

Personnel

Re personnel to take passage to Alexandria (2nd S.L. to COVENTRY, 2046/14, VALIANT, 2047/14, YORK 2048/14, CALCUTTA, 2049/14 ILLUSTRIOUS, 2050/14)

Re Flag-Lieutenants and staff of V.A.A. in ARK ROYAL and R.A.A., Mediterranean in ILLUSTRIOUS (N.A. 2 S.L. to ILLUSTRIOUS 2051/14)

Fast Convoys

My 1611/13, para 2, Group 1 will consist of DUCHESS OF BEDFORD, WAIOTIRA and DENBIGHSHIRE escorted by YORK; para 3. Group 11 SYDNEY STAR, escorted by AJAX. (D.D.O.D., H. 2316/14) My 1611/13 para 7, and my 0003/8. Final destination of ARGUS is Takoradi (D.O.D. (F) 2346/14)

Air.

Italian Factories Bombed

32 Whitley aircraft successfully attacked following targets at 0100 today:-
A Fiat Factory, Turin, B. Caproni Factory, Milan, C. Rail Junction South of Turin, D. Blast Furnace, Turin, E. Marshalling Yards, Milan, F. Rail bridge at Cassano D'Adda 16 miles North East of Milan on Venice line. High explosive and incendiary bombs. Target F. believed destroyed. (1st S.L. 1737/14 to C. in C., Med.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.8.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Air. Contd.

Reconnaissance	One destroyer N.E. Cape Passero steering south. Syracuse one destroyer three large merchant ships and number of small coasting vessels. Augusta one submarine three large merchant ships six small merchant ships. One large merchant ship in August reported very low in the water and fairly close inshore. This may have been damaged in night attack. (F.O.I.C. Malta 1845/14)
Personnel	Requirements at Dekheila and Mariut, officers i/c camps and disembarked squadron and Captain or Captain (A) in command of F.A.A. organisation on shore and to co-operate in operational matters with R.A.F. in Egypt. (C. in C., Med., 1945/14)
Proposed Operation	C. in C., Med. 1901/14 to V.A.A. for R.A. Lyster and ILLUSTRIOUS (See Mediterranean Volume)
Additional Squadrons	Admty. 1915/17/Z. Asking when additional squadrons will arrive etc., (C. in C., Med. 1823/14) (See Mediterranean Volume)

14.8.40.
Wednesday.

MOST SECRET.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Troop Convoy.

Your 1906/11. Concur generally in your proposals. Further remarks (D.O.D.(F) to C. in C.,E.I., 0020/14.

B.N.3 sailed from Bombay (details). (P.S.T.O., Bombay, 11012/13, recd., 0720/14)
B.N.4 List, details and destinations (P.S.T.O. Bombay 1340Z/14)
R.S.5. My 1220/10. Route. (C. in C., E.I., 1414Z/14) to S.N.O. Simonstown.

ORCADES

Your 2242/13. Not intended to escort ORCADES from Bombay onwards on East Indies Station unless situation changes.
(C. in C., E.I., 1418/14)

Air.

Berbera

Seems likely that night raids on Berbera may be expected. Asking if A/A electric light and sound locators can be provided. Use of ships' lights undesirable and ineffective. Withdrawal of ships for the night and complete blackout will seriously prolong work of disembarkation of troops and stores (C. in C. E.I., to C. in C. Middle East, 1902Z/14)

KIMBERLEY

Bombed (see 15/8)

China.

ARAWA

Cancel my 0445/11 and 0107/13. Owing to uncertainty of date of transports sailing from Shanghai, ARAWA will not be available for escort duty. ARAWA to be sailed for Freemantle as soon as convenient. (C. in C., China 0505/14)

A.CM.B. 1032/13, N.Z.N.B. 2156/12 and 2242/13. No objection to ARAWA escorting ORCADES with N.Z. Forestry Unit from Bombay to Freetown instead of Freemantle (D.O.D.(F) to C. in C., China, 1844/14)

Transports

Re use of HOSANG and release of TAKSANG and requesting why ESANG and WINGSANG cannot sail on 17/8 and 20/8. (Cdre. i/c Hong Kong to R.N.O. Shanghai, 0515/14) Reply (R.N.O. Shanghai, 0622Z/15)

ILE DE FRANCE

My 0853/3 and Admty. 2259/9. 93 officers and men will be sailed in Japanese FUSHIMI MARU on 17/8 for Lisbon. Owing to her particular cargo ship cannot enter Casablanca. 87 officers and men will be sailed in next Japanese ship for Casablanca or Lisbon, may not be for 6 weeks, All being paid British maritime wages from date of requisition until they expect to arrive in French territory or one day after arrival in Lisbon.

14.8.40.
Wednesday.

MOST SECRET.

FOREIGN STATIONS

China (Continued)

119 officers and men forming care and maintenance party until wishes of H.M. Govt. are known. Should ship be laid up indefinitely, number of Chines or Malay sailors engaged locally could be used under French supervision and thus relieve more French crews. (C. in C. China, to Admty. 0915Z/14)

Raiders. Your 0440/13 Appreciation concurred with. As Norwegian EIDANGER is now reported to have arrived San Pedro, California D/F fix at 0042Z/20/7 presumed fairly reliable (D.N.I. to Capt. O.S., Singapore 1626/14)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.8.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

Raider Report

KORANTON British, 6695 tons, made raider distress signal, followed by suspicious vessel 40.11 N., 44.04 W., (Portishead W/T 2245/14, Valentia Radio 0256/15)

Suspicious Vessel

Master of British TUSKINVE on arrival Baltimore reports Suspicious vessel sighted 1400/8 037° 52' N., 054° 028' W., Kamrunk Bay 070° resembling German vessel ELSA BISBERGER. Aeroplane on fore part of after deck. Name unknown, speed about 12 knots no smoke issueing from funnel. TUSKINVE turned away and increased speed was not pursued. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1106/14)

Movements

of RAJPUTANA and HX 64; VOLTAIRE and HX 65; MONTCLARE and HHX 65; HX 66 time and route. (F.O. 3 B.S. to REVENGE, 1502/14)

Australia

Troop Convoys

My C130/10. Escort arrangements for U.S. 4 and U.S. 5 as in your 1503/5 concurred in. Concur in proposals for sailing convoys in your 1501/5. Escort for U.S 4 from Colombo to Bombay will be by B class cruisers as arranged by C. in C., E.I. Troops will tranship at Bombay for onward passage in special escorted convoy B.N. 5 which will also include British troops from U.K. U.S. 5. will be escorted from Colombo to Aden by an 8 inch cruiser. Special escorts including A/S vessels for both convoys will be provided during passage of Red Sea and as necessary in Gulf of Aden. (D.O.D. (F) 0054/14)

14.8.40.
Wednesday.

MOST SECRET.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPPING.

EUROFELD Taken on board 6000 tons gas oil and 1000 tons fuel oil. (Consul, Teneriffe, 1230/4).

14.8.40.
Wednesday.

MOST SECRET.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships attacked.

BRITISH FAME — (Torpedoed 12/8) Ministry of Marine communicates that Portuguese destroyer DAO and another Portuguese vessel went in search survivors of BRITISH FAME were unable to find any. Portuguese authorities requested CLIPPER keep look-out, she also failed to find trace of survivors. (N.A.Lisbon, 1716/14)

Ships reported.

LORIENT — Air reconnaissance 13/8. LORIENT. 2 vessels suspected to be U/B's alongside ship at torpedo station (D.D.I.C. 1910/14.)

1004 — Received 0920 G.M.T., unknown aircraft, submarine 20 S, Plymouth 1004 B.S.T. (Portishead Radio, No. T.O.O. recd. 1040/14)

One U/B estimated east of Fair Island homeward bound possibly for Bergen (R.A.S, 1452/14, to S/M's on patrol).

2030 — S/M reported by one of convoy at 2030, followed by under water explosion. No ship hit. Endeavouring to make contact. My position 55.44 N, 9.06 W. (MACKAY 2117/14)

2143 — D.F. unknown unit probably U-boat, 55.15 N, 11.30 W, unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 2223/14)

Estimated dispositions.

No news of the one last heard of east of the Azores on 12/8.

1 in Lorient.
1 in Western Approaches probably homeward bound northabout.
2 in N.W. Approaches, one of them probably leaving for home.
1 now in about 59° 50' N, 6° W. outward bound.
Probably 1 W. of Shetlands outward bound.
1 east of Fair Island homeward bound possibly to Bergen.
It is thought that U/B's on passage to and from areas other than N.W. Approaches now pass through this latter area W. of 15° W and N. of Rockall. (D.D.I.C. 1216/14).

S/M's attacked.

0553 — By naval a/c 60° N, 4° 13' W., 243° Muckle Flugga 110'. No hits claimed (D.S.344) a/c H.M.ship, 0553/14, 0612/14, 0625/14) Send 2 more destroyers to hunt from preliminary position 10 miles N. of Sulisker (C. in C. H.F. to R.A.D.1005/14)

14.8.40.
Wednesday.

MOST SECRET.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships attacked.

BRITISH FAME — (Torpedoed 12/8) Ministry of Marine communicates that Portuguese destroyer DAO and another Portuguese vessel went in search survivors of BRITISH FAME were unable to find any. Portuguese authorities requested CLIPPER keep look-out, she also failed to find trace of survivors. (N.A.Lisbon, 1716/14)

Ships reported.

LORIENT — Air reconnaissance 13/8. LORIENT. 2 vessels suspected to be U/B's alongside ship at torpedo station (D.D.I.C. 1910/14.)

1004 — Received 0920 G.M.T., unknown aircraft, submarine 20 S, Plymouth 1004 B.S.T. (Portishead Radio, No. T.O.O. recd. 1040/14)

One U/B estimated east of Fair Island homeward bound possibly for Bergen (R.A.S, 1452/14, to S/M's on patrol).

2030 — S/M reported by one of convoy at 2030, followed by under water explosion. No ship hit. Endeavouring to make contact. My position 55.44 N, 9.06 W. (MACKAY 2117/14)

2143 — D.F. unknown unit probably U-boat, 55.15 N, 11.30 W, unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 2223/14)

Estimated dispositions.

No news of the one last heard of east of the Azores on 12/8.

1 in Lorient.
1 in Western Approaches probably homeward bound northabout.
2 in N.W. Approaches, one of them probably leaving for home.
1 now in about 59° 50' N, 6° W. outward bound.
Probably 1 W. of Shetlands outward bound.
1 east of Fair Island homeward bound possibly to Bergen.
It is thought that U/B's on passage to and from areas other than N.W. Approaches now pass through this latter area W. of 15° W and N. of Rockall. (D.D.I.C. 1216/14).

S/M's attacked.

0553 — By naval a/c 60° N, 4° 13' W., 243° Muckle Flugga 110'. No hits claimed (D.S.344) a/c H.M.ship, 0553/14, 0612/14, 0625/14) Send 2 more destroyers to hunt from preliminary position 10 miles N. of Sulisker (C. in C. H.F. to R.A.D.1005/14)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.8.1940.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Nore Command — Cruisers, Destroyers and Corvettes keep steam at half an hours notice till further orders (C. in C., Nore 0611/15) My 0511. Revert to normal notice as in my 1736/14. (C. in C., Nore 0727/15)

RENOWN — To remain near Iceland until further orders as sailing of German Expeditionary Force from Norway still seems possible in very near future. (1st S.L. 1031/5 to S.O.Force H.)

Red and Green Flares as Invasion Signals — Meaning and Use. To come into force 1200/17 (A.C.N.S. h. 1205/15 to C's in C.) Hofor 2230/15 to Army Commands)

Portsmouth Additional Balloons — C. in C., Portsmouth's 2007/14A. Fully endorse necessity and request appropriate action. (A.C.N.S. H 1331/15 to Air Ministry)

Nearing SUSSEX — Will re-commence at about 0700/18 and end about 1900/20. Orders as in Adty's (D.S.D. 1437/15 to C's in C.)

Movements

Nore Command — Night dispositions 15/16. (C. in C., Nore, 0800/15)

AJAX — Expect air escort shortly (C. in C., 1228/15 to AJAX) If AJAX cannot be repaired in time to sail 20th August, SHEFFIELD will replace AJAX and FIJI will replace SHEFFIELD (A.C.N.S. H. 1247/15 to C. in C., H.F.)

Brown Ridge Patrol — Destroyers will carry out Patrol tonight. (R.A.S. 1536/15)

Patrol F. — Tonight VETERAN, WILD SWAN, BERKELEY. to-morrow Friday JACKAL, KELVIN, JUPITER, and leave Number 0845 for exercise. (N.O.I.C. Number 1615/15 to KELLETT)

Orkneys — Movements to-night (F.O.S.O.S. 1616/15)

/Dover.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.8.1940.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements, Contd.

Dover — Patrols for night 15/16. (V.A.Dover 1780/15)

HALAR
EXMOUTH
15th C.S. } Proceed at 2200/15 and establish Patrol between 63° 10' N., 7° 30' W., and 66° N., 7° 30' W., NORFOLK and AUSTRALIA now patrolling that area are being ordered to withdraw at 0800/16, returning to Scapa passing West of Faroe Islands (C. in C., H.F. 1910/15 to 15th C.S.)

NORFOLK
AUSTRALIA } Discontinue Patrol at 0800/16 and return to Scapa with AUSTRALIA passing West of Faroes (C. in C., H.F. 1911/15 to NORFOLK Expect co-operation by Sunderland aircraft from about 0930/16 (C. in C., Rosyth 2004/15 to NORFOLK)

WATCHMAN
GARTH } Cancel my 1603. Proceed in company with despatch to 62 D Buoy and thence WATCHMAN to Humber and GARTH to Harwich (C. in C., Rosyth 1951/15 to WATCHMAN) GARTH delayed Proceed independently. (C. in C., Rosyth 2141/15 to WATCHMAN)

ASHANTI
HOWE } You will be escorted throughout the night by Flying Boat (C. in C., Rosyth 2002/15 to ASHANTI)

ARROW — 3 Motor Launches will join you about 2200 today (C. in C., W.A. 2014/15 to ARROW)

HOOD — To proceed at 0600/16 to Rosyth to exchange 15 inch guns. R.A.D. to detail from destroyers as screen. C. in C., Rosyth requested to arrange Air A/S escort. (C. in C., H.F. 2016/15 to C. in C., Rosyth)

Port ZA — Sail 4 destroyers to arrive at ZA by 1600/16 (C. in C., H.F. 2018/15 to R.A.D.)

ACTIVE — Sailed 2030/15. Expected arrive Greenock 0800/17. (C. in C., W.A. 2065/15 to Adty.)

/INTREPID.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.8.1940.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements. Contd.

HETHERLD MIDDLEAVA TRYCE RUNK	Sailed from Humber 2050/15 (FO Humber to Adty.)
COSSACK ZAGH MAORI VORTIGERN	Capt. D.4 in COSSACK, with SIKH, MAORI, VORTIGERN, proceed to R/V with HOOD off Horn at 0615/16. Escort to Rosyth. On arrival COSSACK, SIKH, MAORI set under orders of C. in C., Rosyth who is requested to sail VORTIGERN to Humber. (RAD H.F. 2255/15 to D.4)

Operations

Proposed Patrol Off Outer Hebrides	Your 1919/13. Considerations stated against proposal; but, if Patrols still desired, TRIDENT and SNAPPER could both sail on 18/8. (R.A.S. 0044/15 to C. in C H.F.) Note. Para 8 for "Continue" read "combine"
Operation F.G. (Sweep off Maas & Scheldt)	By 1530/16/7. Operation FG to be carried out tonight. (C. in C., Nore, 1103/15 to S.O. M.T.B's Felixtowe)
Operation FO	(Sweep by destroyers off Texel and Vlieland) Before repeating Operation request submarines on patrol be asked report on its effect on enemy composition and movements in area. 16 Group have been asked to investigate. (C. in C., Nore, 1222/15 to V.A.S) If possible investigate and report any enemy movements in Enemy Swept Channels reported by STURGEON. (V.A.S. 1824/15 to Submarine H.31.)
Iceland	LASSO has completed laying of loop. Should she return with Convoy sailing 16/8 or await trial of loop. (F.O.I.C. Iceland, 1430/15 to Adty.)
Shetlands	Your 1245/13 and Adty. 1830/14. The 4- inch Mountings being sent are unsuitable for the Timber Baulk Platform now in Shetlands. (D. of L.D. 2048/15 to F.O.C.S)

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines

Proposed Submarine Patrol off Outer Hebrides — See Operations.

CACHALOT / MANOR — Sail from Rothesay at 2000/15 to 56° N., 6° 50' W., at 2200/17 and thence MANOR to Plymouth and CACHALOT as in V.A.S. 1106/5. Capt. S. 7. 1602/15) Your 1929/14 Intend sailing CACHALOT escorted by MANOR 2000/15 (S.7 12820/15 to V.A.S)

Positions — For following 24 hours at 0600/16 Area E. (V.A.S. 1636/15) (R.A.S. 1637/15)

PORPOISE — Your 2351/14 I have no immediate requirement s@ suggest that PORPOISE waits for next dark period and lays either in position 60° 54' N., 04° 37' E. or off S.W. coast of Norway in position selected by you. (C. in C., H.F. 1441/15 to V.A.S)

E-Boats

Two E-Boats, course 040° speed 25 knots, at 55° 25' N., 4° 24' at 0400/15. Aircraft report (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 0743/15)

British Air Activity

Have attacked small craft with bombs. Estimate no hits. My position 56° 12' N., 5° 46' E., (Donibristle 0903/15 and 1315/15)

Operation No 54 — As detailed in this H.Q.'s AS 316/12/8 to be repeated tonight 15/16. (H.Q.C.C. 1430/15 to 16 Group)

Air Searches — For 16/8. (C. in C., Rosyth 1930/15)

A/S Patrol — Hudson aircraft will carry out A/S Patrol near 54° 35' N., 0° 37' W., from 2200/15 for about 3 hours. (C. in C., Rosyth 1948/15 to WATCHMAN)

Balloon Command — Daily Operations report as at 1700/15 (Balloon Command 1955/15)

Dale Viaduct — Nine Skuas leave 0430/16 to attack Dale Viaduct, North of Bergen (Hatston 2145/15 to A.C.C.S.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.8.1940.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity

730. M.T.B. was ordered out of harbour at 1528 to rescue a British Pilot 10 miles S.W. of Dover. Observing an airman on a parachute fall in the sea near number 7 buoy she stopped and put a man over the side to pick him up. She was then attacked by four seaplanes probably with cannon gun and suffered considerable damage and 3 wounded. The airman who was German had to be left. (V.A.Dover 1810/15 to Adty.)

Portland Air Raid

Attack at 1725/15 by about 150 aircraft. Slight damage to buildings at Portland Bill W/T station and Borstal buildings. Civilian casualties at Borstal. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1943/15 to Adty.)

Worthy Down Air Raid

Bombed and machine gunned by 3 aircraft at 1753/15. No material damage ~~mk~~ beyond window panes and bullet holes and one aircraft damaged in hanger. (R.A.F.A.S. 2027/15 to Adty.) (C. in C., Portsmouth 2353/15 to Adty.)

H.M.Y. CRANE

Received 2201/15. Ship being attacked by aircraft 7 miles West of Stack. (Plymouth W/T. 2303/15)

Enemy aircraft reported as having machine-gunned H.M. CRANE at 2205/15 in position 066° south Stack Lighthouse 5 miles. Two objects which dropped in sea failed to explode. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 0934/17)

Mining.

Humber

Closed from Spurn Point to 2' E., of Chequer Shoal Buoy. (F.O. Humber, 0103/) Magnetic mines (C. in C., Rosyth 0230/15 to WATCHMAN)

BULLFINCH (1555? tons)

Magnetic mines. Abandoning ship. An standing by. Position 52° 3' N., 1° 50' E., (VIVIEN to C. in C., Nore, 0045/15) Ship sunk at 318° 52° N., 2° E. 9.2 miles D G gear was on. Crew and signal books all saved. (VIVIEN 0050/15 to C. in C., Nore) More likely a moored mine, as several have been out in this area (D.O.R. 16/8)

/Fast Minesweepers.... ..

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.8. 1940.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining. Contd.

East Minesweepers

Will be operating today from Harwich near 52° 8' N., 1° 83' E., leaving Harwich 1200/15. Request air protection till dark Code word SOLLO (C. in C., Nore, 1006/15 to A.D.C. in C., N.C.) Fighter protection will be given. (H.Q.F.C. 1156/15 to C. in C., Nor

Milford Haven

Port Open (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven. 1037/15 to Adty.) Aircraft minelaying suspected N. of Skokholm Island p.m./13. Area one mile round 025° Skokholm Light 17 miles considered dangerous. Request QX (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1358/15 to Adty.)

CORUNNA with TRAMIO, CASWELL, JOSEPH BUTTON to R/V at 52° 4' N., 1° 49' E., with NIGER at 1330/15 to act as Dan Layers. PINTAIL to afford A/A protection (Nore W/T 1101/15 to WIDGEON)

Operation H.S. 32

Intend TEVIOT BANK escorted by INTREPID and IMPULSIVE to pass Spurn Point 2030/15, commence lay at 0530/16 and return Humber by same route. Request air escort from 0430/16 and 53° 57' N., 2° 10' E., till return. Speed 10 knots. (INTREPID 1355/15 to C. in C., Nore.)

Aberdeen

Red Magnetic Mine detonated with "M" Mark II Three Star Sweep at 1415/15 in 57° 10' N., 2° 3' W., (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1543/15 to Adty.)

SHARPSHOOTER

C. in C., Rosyth's 1019/15. SHARPSHOOTER is still required to be attached to 6th M/S Flotilla to operate with HARRIER similarly fitted. To sail to Harwich accordingly on completion. (D.N.S. 1559/15 to C. in C., N.F.)

Operation SN 14

Cancel my 2231/14 (proposing to carry out Operation) (R.A.M.L. 1561/15 to Adty.)

Swansea

Red Mines detonated by Lt. 038° Mumbles Light 14.5 cables. (N.O.I.C. Swansea 1345/15 to Adty.)

/Operation SN 12.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.8.1940.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining. Contd.

Operation MN 12 — Propose to carry out 17th to 19th August as amended as follows (R.A.N.L. 2234/15 to Admty.)

Night Sweeping — 2 Drifters with W/T are to be transferred and sailed to Sheerness as soon as possible as leaders of Night Minesweeping Units. Report names. (C. in C., Nore 2265/15 to N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea)

Enemy Intelligence

HIPPER — PRU Sortie of 15/8 shows HIPPER Cruiser in Floating Dock at Wilhelmshaven. (P.I.U. 0002/16)

HIPPER Class Cruiser
BREMEN
EUROPA — PRU Sortie of 15/8 shows HIPPER class cruiser still at Brunon with smoke from funnels. BREMEN and EUROPA still at Hamburg, where Blohm and Voss yard covered by cloud. (PIU 0002/16)
Note. BISMARCK was reported in Blohm and Voss's yard 9/8)

Fishing Smacks — 0900/15. within 13 mile radius of 55° 12' N., 5° 46' E a large number of Danish and Dutch Fishing Smacks apparently not fishing and one seen to carry a W/T aerial. (Denibristle 1315/15) Seen again at 1700/15 (Denibristle 2015/15)

Norwegian Coast — a.m. /15th. 1 M/V at 61° 35' N., 39' E., steering North and loaded with yellow bails; 2 M/V's with Norwegian flag at anchor in 61° 29' N., 5° 2' E; 3 M/V's and one White craft 300 to 400 tons of Noah's Ark shape with large Red Cross on top and one large 10,000 to 14,000 ton ship on stocks in harbour at 62° 13' N., 5° 40' E; and several Fishing Boats with Swedish flag steering 070° at 7 knots in 61° 2' N., 0° 40' E., (Denibristle 1430/15) (Denibristle 1130/15)

Helder — PRU Sortie of 15/8 shows that aircraft Security Vessel and Guard Ship, and Flak ship reported docked on 11/8, have left Helder (PIU 1900/15)

Ymuiden — In North Sea Channel, several tons of Timber moving towards Ymuiden (PIU 1900^5)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.8.1940.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoys

O.A. 199	To proceed by route S. (C. in C., W.A., 0950/15) List (N.C.S.O. Methil 1031/15)
O.B. 202	Route (C. in C., W.A. 1033/15)
O.G. 41	Route (C. in C., W.A. 1032/15)
O.A. 103	Route (C. in C., W.A. 1054/15)
S.L. 42	Orders to escort and route (C. in C., W.A. 1218/15)
O.B. 201	Route (C. in C., W.A. 1036/15)
O.B. 198	List. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1041/15)

Channel Convoys

Admty. 1939/13 (A) Suggest Portland be eliminated as a stopping point, and that hop be from Dartmouth to Needles. Request when ATHERSTONE and HAMBLEDON may be expected. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1103/15) Your 1103. For present, ships should proceed as in my 1939/13 (A) Question of eliminating Portland will be considered later. ATHERSTONE and HAMBLEDON should join you about 21/8. (D.O.D. (H) 2234/15. Orders to ATHERSTONE and HAMBLEDON (R.A.D. H.F., 2001/15)

My 1939/13. C.E. & C.W. convoys will continue to be operated by C. in C., Nore who will provide trawler escort only. Remainder of the escort in para (B) will be provided by C. in C., Portsmouth but it may be necessary to reinforce from Nore until Portsmouth has sufficient Hunt class destroyers. (D.O.D. (H) 2345/15-)

Kites will be flown in Channel Convoy. 3 R.A.F. personnel to be embarked for each winch and 1 officer for the convoy. (H.Q. Balloon Command 1200/15)

GOTEBORG — (With repatriates for Sweden) sailed 0500/15 (D.N.I. to N.A., Stockholm 1641/15) She has been given a safe conduct by Germany (D.O.R. 16/8)

ULSTER MONARCH — To pass at least 10 miles east of Rumbles Rock. (A.C.O.S. to ASHANTI 1837/15)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.6.1940.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Destroyers — Your 1540/14, re R.V. of HOTSPUR, GREYHOUND GALLANT ENCOUNTER. Order to return to Gibraltar. (F.O. Force H., to F.O.C.N.A. 1148/15)

[illegible] — My 1043/15 (see Mediterranean) and F.O. Force H., 1506/13. Sailing [illegible] for South Atlantic to be deferred until reinforcements for Mediterranean Fleet arrive Gibraltar. (N.O.D. (F) to F.O. Force H. and F.O.C.N.A., 1303/15) Arrival RENOWN at Gibraltar delayed. Intend retaining [illegible] at Gibraltar for the present. (F.O.C.N.A. 1700/15)

Air Patrols — 5 a/S Patrols over area Spartel to 230 miles east of Gibraltar and 1 sweep westwards (200 Group R.A.F., 1700/15)

South Atlantic

[illegible] — Your 1645/6, re movements. Reported Colonial Office telegram No 248 to Nigeria was despatched through a misunderstanding without Admty. concurrence in para 5. (Hd. of M. to C. in C., S.A. 0043/15)

[illegible] — My 1043/15. (Operation Bonnet-Mediterranean) and F.O. Force H., 1506/13. Sailing of [illegible] for South Atlantic to be deferred until reinforcements for Mediterranean Fleet arrive Gibraltar (date) (N.O.D. (F) to FO Force H., 1303/15)

Protection of Shipping — Asking for views on advisability of routeing shipping close to South American coast between River Plate and Pernambuco. Of 7 ships long overdue and presumed lost distress signals only intercepted from two. (C. in C., S.A. to R.A.S.A.D., 1930/15)

[illegible] — (Reported Overdue) Arrived Durban (S.O.I., Cape Town 2203/15)

Convoy MS 5 — Your 1220/10 REINA DEL PACIFICO unable to make passage to Aden without taking water at Durban. Am therefore routeing MS 5 via Durban where she can also make good urgent machine shop defect repairing about 48 hrs Request CARTHAGE may be retained at Durban until MS 5 is ready to sail (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 2240/15 to C. in C., E.I.)

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Balloon Barrage Alexandria Reinforcements	(Air Ministry report) (Hd. of M. to C. in C., Med., 0047/15) (See Mediterranean Volume) My 0255/13. Loading of merchant ships is BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, infantry tanks; WAIOTIRA, cruiser tanks; SYDNEY STAR, ligh tanks. (2) Liner selected is DUCHESS OF BEDFORD. (D.O.D. (F) 0149/15) Alternative plan of drastic steps necessary-Operation "Bennets" (1st S.L. to C. in C., Med., 1043/15) (See Mediterranean Volume)
PANDORA	Informing her she was located by enemy at 0500/15, 20 miles N. of Benghazi (F.O.I.C. Malta 1505/15)
RENDAL	Cancelling 2027/13. To proceed in execution of previous orders. (C. in C., Med 1024/15) (Capt. S.I. 1531/15)
Operation	My 1603/13. Suggesting bombing of a certain place be abandoned. (See Mediterranean Volume) (C. in C., Med., 1036/15)
Barham	Cancel my 1407/14 (re moving of a battalion) (C. in C., Med. 1213/15)
Cruiser Command	Admty. 0058/14. Desired in all questions affecting destroyers Tovey should be known and addressed as V.A. (D) and that Destroyer Command should continue to exist. Intentions are that Renouf should command new 3rd C.S. as separate squadron under Tovey as V.A. Light Force. New 7th C.S. and Destroyer Flotilla to be under direct command of Tovey as V.A. Light Force. (C. in C., Med., 1307/15)
ILLUSTRIOUS	My 2235/8. Cancel para 4 and substitute: R.A.A., Mediterranean in ILLUSTRIOUS will take all ships under his orders on arrival at M.V., detaching ARGUS and other units where necessary. (D.O.D. (F) 1426/15)

/Greek HELLE Sunk.....

MOST SECRET

15.8.1940.
Thursday

MAP Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean. Contd.

Greek HELLE sunk

Syra reports Greek cruiser HELLE reported sunk in Tinos Harbour by Italian submarine at 0630/15. Many casualties (S.O.I., Alexandria, 1500/15) Confirm no British submarine operating in vicinity of Tinos (D.OD. (F) to C. in C., Med., 1749/15)

French Fleet

Tentative proposal via French Liaison Officer that French Force at Alexandria proceed to act in protection of French Indo-China. (C. in C., Mediterranean, 1539/15)

Malta. Supplies

Imperative to augment reserves of army and civil stocks. Suggesting all services have common reserve policy at 6 months' consumption, and that convoys run every 2 months. (V.A. Malta, 2321/15)

Situation

Things so quiet during last week that feel something is in the wind, would it be possible to hasten HATS about 2 or 3 days. (C. in C., Med., 2331/15) Your 2331/15. Regret that owing to many administrative questions involved impossible to advance date of HATS (1st S.L. to C. in C., Med.,)

Greek Situation

Anxiety about Crete. Suggesting urge Greek Govt. to mobilise their forces there, about a division, perhaps with financial assistance (C. in C., Med., 2329/15)

YORK

Estimate of fuel consumption and margin for fuelling at Simonstown, Durban or Mombasa and Aden. (YORK 1631/15)

Air

Malta Air Raid

At 1340, 2 formations of 5 enemy bombers came over Island accompanied by 20 to 25 fighters in all. Target Hal Far Aerodrome and immediate vicinity. One Swordfish on ground hit and destroyed. 4 Hurricanes up 1 Hurricane dived into sea so far cause unknown. Pilot presumed killed. 2 Hurricanes attacked Fighters no claims other material damage slight. Casualties 2 W. (H.Q. Malta 1600/15, P.O.I.C. Malta 2005/15, Governor Malta, 2021/15)

/Alexandria, Raids..

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.8.1940.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean, Air- Contd.

Alexandria
Haifa

2150 to midnight, about 12 planes, about 20 bombs. 2 casualties, damage negligable. (R.A. Alexandria)

East Indies

Bermuda Force

Order of C. in C., Middle East (C. in C., E.I. 10642/15) (See Operations Volume) Air situation, M.E. and Aden (M.C., R&F M.E., 1736/15) (See Operations Volume)

Convoys

Request you will comply with C. in C., Med's 1947/14 (D.C.D. (F) to C. in C., E.I., 1032/15)

Admty. 2138/13 part 3 para 6. Intended that Convoy U.S. 4. will not call at Colombo. Troops will transship at Bombay in accordance C.M. 0084/14 (C. in C., E.I., 13123/15)

Proposed arrangements, B.N. and W.T. and U.K. convoys (F.S.T.O. East Indies, 13334/15)

Your 2034/11. Arrangements made for Field Regt. to embark in British EGRA sailing EN 4 (F.S.T.O. East Indies, 12035/15 to D. of S.T.)

Air.

KIMBERLEY

Bombed at 0545 G.M.T. 14/8 off British Somaliland Coast 7 bombs, no hits. (C. in C., E.I., 10328/15)

HOBART
KIMBERLEY

Bombing attacks 15/8 (1) Berbera Harbour at 1325 G.M.T. two aircraft attacked HOBART five bombs nearest 90 yards. Some splinters No damage. (11) 34 miles West of Berbera at 1405 G.M.T. KIMBERLEY attacked result not yet known. (C. in C., E.I. 1658/2/15)

No 1650/15 para 2 No damage (C. in C. E.I. 1444/15)

/Convoy escort....

MOST SECRET

15.8.1940.
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies, Air- Contd.

Convoy Escort — 14 Sqdn. escorted Convoy B.3. S., 13.34' N.,- 17.10'., no enemy sighted. (H.C. R.A.F. M.E., 1613/15)

Flying Boats — My 1410/6, re Singapore and Sunderland flying boats. H.C., Far East has now withdrawn Singapore. Sunderland leaves for Alexandria 16/8. (C. in C., E.I., 1055?/15)

China

Evacuations — My 1200/13. Bookings in TAIDA (R.N.O., Shanghai., 0154?/15)

Enemy Aeroplane — Your 1344/14 not understood. N.Z.N.B. 2156/12 quoted in your message refers to STRATHNAVER. This is first information I have received regarding GNOADEN (C. in C., China, 0735?/15 to Adty.)

Hanoi Liaison — Suggesting better liaison at Hanoi. No Vice-consul available, but Consul General, Saigon might make periodical visits. H.M.C. sent but Governor General does not wish him to stay (vide H.M.L.C. Saigon's 0845/13) (C. in C., China 0811?/15)

American & West Indies

Suspicious Vessel — Reported in 40° 11'N., 44° 04' W., at 2245/14 (F.O.C. 3 D.S. to REVENGE, VOLTAIRE, ASCANIA, 0957/15)

Allied Shipping — Guesse reports indicate Norwegian and Dutch ships have difficulty with crews on account of complete absence of means of defence against aircraft. Suggesting issue of weapons. (C. in C., A.W.I. 1063/15

MANAOS
H.C.S.A. — My 2222/10. Rio de Janeiro reports MANAOS laid up for repairs there. Possibility exists that signal letters in S.C.S. were made or read. incorrectly. (C. in C., A.W.I., 2242/15)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.8.1940.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia

Troop movements

Transport AQUITANIA arrived Sydney 2033Z/14 ILANDRA escorting A.I.F. ship STRATHALLAN arrived Port Adelaide 2030Z/14. (A.C.N.B. 0513/15)

Convoy

S.C.I. Draft spiling telegram (N.C.S.O. Sydney 1013/15)

New Zealand

Convoys

Admty. 0054/14. N.Z. Govt. have now agreed but hope to be informed of composition of the escort Bombay to Suez before that portion of the voyage is commenced. (N.Z.N.B. 2303Z/15)

MOST SECRET

18.8.1940.
Thursday

War Diary

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

KULMA
[redacted] } Daigen reports ships have "disappeared" (S.O.I. Shanghai 0110Z/15)

[redacted] At Vigo, testing engines (C.S) (D.N.I. 1801/15)

[redacted] At Vigo, completed cooling and signs of movement on board. (D.N.I. 1801/15)

[redacted] Left for Black Sea Ports (Colnts 1240/15)

[redacted] By 1650/8/7. German Consul has assembled the crew. Ship has been amply provisioned. (S.O.I. Kingston 1421/15)

[redacted] ~~Off Maracaibo, will be escorted to Las Piedra by a Venezuela gunboat and interned (D.S. 346)~~

[redacted] At Vigo, tried out her engines 0500/15 (D.S 345.

[redacted] At Vigo, has completed cooling (D.S. 345)

[redacted] At Teneriffe, reported to have taken in 6000 tons gas oil and 1000 tons fuel oil. (D.S. 345)

[redacted] At Las Palmas, taking in 3000 tons of coal (DS 345)

[redacted] At Las Palmas, taking in 100 tons of coal (D.S. 345)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

CATTARINA GERBOLINICH At Dublin since Italy entered war, has requested Marconi's to repair her W/T installation. (DS 345)

ALABAMA By 1040/15. Caracas reports Govt. have given assurance that ship is interned. Will be escorted by Venezuelan gunboat (S.O. (1) Kingston 0823/15)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.8.1940.
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

MILLS CONTRACT

Have 9 survivors Swedish MILLS CONTRACT 55.45 N., 07.05 W., One leg broken. Captain reports another raft with 8 men 5 miles southwards. As only escort, proceeding to join convoy. Request instructions (St. KILDAN to F.O.I.C. Greenock 2350/15, F.O.I.C. Greenock to Admty., 0850/16) (D.S. 346) Had fallen behind convoy.

STYLARFIELD

Police Tobermory report that 16 members of crew of s.s. STYLARFIELD landed at Tobermory today. Survivors state ship which has fallen astern of convoy sighted U-Boat in position 56° N., 13° W., at 2030/15 and was torpedoed amidships on port side at 2330/15. U-Boat then surfaced starboard side and fired second torpedo. Survivors were picked up 0500/16 by trawler NEWLANDS off Barra Head and landed Tobermory. Second Boat with remainder of crew 13 or 14 men unaccounted for. (C. in C., Rosyth 1437/16)

Submarines Reported

0625 LILAC reports investigating submarine on surface 8 miles east 19 A buoy 0625. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 0650/16) Submarined refused to answer challenge and submerged. Dropped 1 depth charge at approx. position negative result, rejoining group. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 0700/16) VIMIERA to investigate (C. in C., Rosyth 0825/16 1026/16, 2007/16)

0914 Sail trawlers PENTLAND FIRTH, PANTHER, and ANGLE to join ACHATES and ARROW hunting U-Boat in position 55.45 N., 09.06 W., trawler MAN O'WAR to join when ready. (C. in C., W.A., to N.O.I.C. Belfast 0024/16) MACKAY rejoin convoy ARROW, ACHATES continue hunt. (C. in C., W.A. 1334/15) 4 A/S trawlers joining in hunt (C. in C., W.A., 1429/15) M.L's being sent to N.V. with you (N.O.I.C. Belfast to ACHATES, 1919/15)

2045 Submarine 56.39 N., 11.34 W., by STYLA-FIELD 2145 G.M.T. submarine submerged (Portpatrick Radio) (2145/15, 2151/15, F.O.I.C. Greenock 0114/16)

/1212.....

MOST SECRET

15.8.1940.
Thursday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported. Contd

1010 60°- 61° N., 1°- 3° W., very indefinite. (D.D. 346)

1200 53° N., 13° W., very indefinite (D 346)

1125 By aircraft 61.08 N., 07.05 W., (DS 345)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

One still no news of the last heard of east of the Azores on 12/8.
1 in Lorient
1 in Western Approaches
1 Homeward bound from Western Approaches may pass through N.W. Approaches W. of 15° W. to-morrow.
2 in N.W. Approaches and 3 more outward bound may arrive there today.
1 in 60° 08' N., 7° 05' W., at 1125/15 course 260 degrees speed 6 knots. (D.D.I.C., 1324/15)

Submarines Attacked

0700 By LILAC (See submarines reported)

1125 By aircraft, submerged in position 61.08 N., 7.05 W., course 260 speed 6 knots. No hits (Aircraft 204 Sqdn., 1125/15 Benbristle 1125/15, 1525/15, 1615/15)

Mediterranean & East Indies

Submarines Reported

Gadiz Consul, Cadiz, reports that a German or Italian submarine entered Cadiz night of 11/8 and fuelled from an Italian tanker. Believes visit may be repeated (S.O.I., Gibraltar, 1140/15)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.8.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Escort for A.M.C's — C. in C., W.A. agrees to proposal to escort A.M.C's through submarine zone. Intend to implement my 1421/14 to C. in C., W.A. (C. in C., H.F., 0935/16)

Defence of U.K.

Readiness — My 2208/13. Ships may revert to normal notice (V.C.N.S. 0037/16 to C. in C., Nore, Portsmouth, W.A., Rosyth, V.A.Dover)

Nore Command readiness — Starting to-day Friday available cruisers destroyers and corvettes in harbour are to be at following notice for steam.
from 0600 to 2100 four hours from 2100 to 0600 ½ hour.
Duty destroyers are to be at ½ hours' notice as follows Harwich and Sheerness two each Number one. Cancel all previous orders regarding notice for steam. (C. in C., Nore. 0950/16 to S.O.S. in Nore Command)

Shetlands Defence — Arrangements being made for despatch of Infantry Battalion urgently. Two 4 inch coast defence guns being sent. More A.A. defences will be provided when other more urgent requirements have been met. (D. of L.D. 2041/16)

Movements

RENOWN — Cancel my 1031/15 Proceed to Gibraltar (1st S.L. 0032/16 to S.O.Force H.)

HOOD proceeding to Rosyth to change 15" gun. — LONDONDERRY and WOLFHOUND search whole Firth between long Gullane on W. and a line joining Anstruther, May Island North Berwick on E., keeping to N. of 20 fm. line. VIMIERA patrol as in my 0813. All three ships should return to harbour astern of HOOD on her arrival about 1500 (C. in C., Rosyth 1134/16)

COSSACK, SIKH, and MAORI now screening HOOD also ZULU are at your disposal for the purpose referred to in your 1301/14. *
(C. in C., H.F. 1225/16 to C. in C., Rosyth)
* Screen for floating dock.

/Nore Commndn.....

MOST SECRET.

16.8.1940.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

"Operation Menace".

Great importance is attached to the early training in boat work of the 1st and 2nd R.M. Brigades for a specific operation. Have you any objection to this taking place in Scapa Flow. The units would be self-contained in four liners, and will be ready to proceed at the end of this week.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1249/16 to C.in C. H.F.)

Your 1249/16 no objection but trust I will not be required to provide destroyer escort there being several commitments in hand and impending.
(C.in C. H.F. 1706/16 to Adty).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Intend if necessary that NEPTUNE shall carry or escort troops evacuating from British Somaliland to Mombasa.
(C.in C. E.I. 1946Z/16).

17.8.1940.
Saturday.

POLICY.

American Destroyers.

My 1207/14/6 in anticipation of United States decision we are seeking concurrence of the Canadian Govnt. to our collecting at Halifax officers and ratings to commission the U.S. destroyers which we hope may be transferred to us. Fully trained personnel will be diluted by partially trained. We propose to complete their training in the destroyers at Halifax and exercise them there before sailing in groups for U.K. As a first instalment we are proposing to send about 1,000. Hope Australia Canada and New Zealand will be able to form crews for some of the destroyers.
(V.C.N.S. 1942/17 to N.O. Melbourne).

MOST SECRET.

17.8.1940.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.(Contd.)

Operation "Menace"

Convoy of four liners SOBIESKI, ETTRICK, KENYA, KARANJA with troops on board is to be sailed from liverpool to Scapa 19/8 and will be known as convoy M.P. C.in C. W.A. and C.in C. H.F. are to provide two destroyers each for escort. Fighter protection code word DELTA.
(V.C.N.S. 1241/17).

24.8.1940.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

1. Owing to increasing urgency of reinforceing Middle East it is probable that a further special M.T. and personnel convoy will sail from U.K. early in September.

2. Ocean escort from United Kingdom to Freetown will be arranged by Admiralty without calling on cruisers now in S.A. Command. As CUMBERLAND will not be available (my 1654/23) either CORNWALL or SHROPSHIRE must return to Freetown from Cape after duty with W.S.2.

3. Re. W.S.2.A.

4. Re ORION.

5. If reply to para. 3 is affirmative C.in C. S.A. is to arrange return of CORNWALL or SHROPSHIRE to Freetown so as to be available there not later than 17/9.
(D.O.D.(F) 0046/24 to C.in C. E.I. C.in C. S.A.

26.8.1940.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Far East Situation.

3. You should prepare in collaboration, consulting with C.in C. E.I. as necessary, a tactical appreciation based on our Far East Appreciation.
(1st S.L. 1415/26).

East Indies.

Italian supplies.

My 0624/25. (Effective blockade impossible) Reports are being received that Italians are obtaining other supplies through Mogadishu.

/Are

MOST SECRET.

26.8.1940.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Italian Supplies. Are sources mentioned in your 1322/11/3 still available to investigate. Ships patrolling recently off Mogadishu and Kismayu have reporte no movements of shipping and it is the wrong season for dhows to enter.
(C.in C. E.I. 0608/26 to D.N.I.)

27.8.1940.
Tuesday.

East Indies.

Socotra West Passage. Admty. 886. 1523/26. I have recently approved H.M. Ships (but not ROYAL SOVEREIGN) and shipping proceeding south from Aden to pass west of Socotra at night. The risks are (a) submarines working from Ras Hafun or Ras Alula. (b) air attack accurate observation from air or shore leading to attack later on. In view of great urgency for reinforcements, consider these risks which except for observation from shore cannot be of high order are acceptable for fast convoy without A/S and A/S escort is passage is made in dark. R.S. five has been ordered accordingly and W.S.two A, A.P.one and A.P. two will be.
(C.in C. E.I. 1444/27).

Somaliland Ports. You should see Middle East O/17601 of 26/8 to W.O. My 1214/14/6 and my 0608/26/8 refer. Each port has been watched recently by COLOMBO for a week at a time but no movement of shipping has been observed at either. Consideration has been given to bombardment of Kismayu by "C" class cruisers but in present weather conditions without aircraft spotting I consider it is not worth ammunition for which there are no reserve stocks at present. Intend to undertake as soon as conditions are better and other commitments allow. Request confirmations that ships in ports in this area may be regarded as supply ships. (Ref: 1233/6 /6 from Admiralty).

America and West Indies.

Information for U.S.A. Your 1521/22. An exchange of certain technical information has been approved. Admiralty is giving full information on Asdics, multiple pom-pom, R.D.F. and all other relevant techical information. The question of strategical and operational co-operation is being considered here on an imperial basis.

/Questions

MOST SECRET.

27.8.1940.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

Information for U.S.A. (Contd.)

Questions of inter communication including use of codes and cyphers and liaison will also be considered here and you will be kept informed of decision.
(Hd. of M. 1115/27 to C.N.S. Ottawa.)

28.8.1940.
Wednesday.

China.

Policy, Joint Planning.

3. You should, as soon as possible, prepare in collaboration with C.in C.China and A.O.C.in C. Far East consulting with Commander in Chief, East Indies as necessary, a tactical appreciation based on our Far East Appreciation.
(W.O. to G.O.C. Malaya, 0025/28).

East Indies.

Your 0717/27. (i) Para.1 (b). Can you ascertain name of ships in which these aircraft are expected, and their expected dates of arrival (?).

(ii) Para.4. Do Mauritians appreciate that the stoppage of Allied trade with Madagascar and Reunion was decided on by H.M. Government solely as a result of the uncomprising attitude adopted by Madagascar Government itself on the question of treatment of Allied Shipping. (?). Despite capitulation I would recommend that unrestricted trade with Madagascar and Reunion should be resumed if and when a guarantee of non interference with Allied Shipping is received. Repeated requests for such a guarantee have been ignored by Madagascar Govt.

(iii) Pass message above to Governor Mauritius.
(C.in C. E.I. 1330/28 to N.O.I.C. Mauritius).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

28.8.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Your 0608/26. Sources mentioned have been temporarily isolated but are being re-established and will investigate. (D.N.I. 1947/28).

29.8.1940.
Thursday.

East Indies.

Proposed Bombardment of Zeila.

My 1626/28th project deferred on score that there are probably more British Somalis in place now than Italian. (C.in C. E.I. 1932/29).

31.8.1940.
Saturday.

South Atlantic.

West Africa, Unity of Command.

In view of recent developments of Free French Movement General de Gaulle has asked for unity of command in West and Central Africa. Chiefs of Staff have approved principle of a unified command after completion certain operations and proposals for setting it up are now being considered. Two alternative suggestions. (details). (W.O. 1645/31 to G.O.C. West Africa.)

MOST SECRET.

6.9.1940.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Fighter Protection Convoys.

16. A.O.C. M.E's A.419 T.O.O. 0707/6 to Air Ministry, C.in C. Med., and A.O.C. British Forces, Aden.

(i) Fighter protection for convoys is much desired but I consider that in order to be really effective the aircraft must have better performances than Blenheims. This would not be in the case with carrier borne aircraft.

(ii) Narrow waters of Red Sea are not very suitable for operations of such a valuable Fleet as an aircraft carrier if other means can be found.

(iii) What is wanted are longer range and faster type based aircraft and many more of them than at present. They could use Kamaran as an advance base if ground defences were established on island.

(iv) Ending provision as in foregoing protection is best given by a continuation and, if possible an increase, of offensive action against enemy aerodromes together with such fighter escort as is possible from Aden.

(v) More A.A.Escort (which are not available from Red Sea Force) might make it more difficult for enemy but A.A. fire does not seem to bring him down.
(C.in C. E.I. 1800/6).

8.9.1940.
Sunday.

South Atlantic.

DELHI Point Noire.

Your 1115/5 and Adty. 1957/7. While at Point Noire I cannot allow my submarines to approach harbour entrance. French consider force reported in CUMBERLAND 1601/5 is probably reinforcing Libreville. Larminat most anxious on no account should any hostile action take place between British (? or) French forces (? which may) react throughout French Colonial Empire. He prefers me not to be present if Vichy French forces do fight even though I take no active part.

/Under

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

8.9.1940.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

DELHI, Point Noire. (Contd.)

Under these circumstances I intend to leave Point Noire after French ship CAP PADARAN, probably 9/9 but certainly 10/9. Intend to return to (? Lagos) for fuel. Local Free French are being reinforced but I am doubtful if any Free French-Men will actually fight (? vichy) French when it comes to point.
(DELHI 1359/8 to C.in C. S.A.)

10.9.1940.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation D.H.

Intend FURIOUS escorted by BERWICK and NORFOLK should leave Scapa evening 12/9 September to attack shipping and military objectives at Tromso morning 15/9 and to carry out a repetition of operation D.F. vide my 1151/5 on the morning 17/9. The force would return to Scapa arriving either late p.m./17 or early a.m./18. Copies of operation orders, short title D.H. are being forwarded to authorities concerned.
(C.in C. H.F. 0924/10).

11.9.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

RENOWN Ammunition.

In view of possible bombardment operations by RENOWN. Request at least 100 rounds of 15 inch shells be sent to Gibraltar as soon as possible.
(S.O.Force H. 1020/11).

MOST SECRET.

12.9.1940.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation D.H.

Your 0924/10. Your desire to carry out an offensive operation and to ascertain whether there is any possibility of an expedition being launched from the Tromso Area is fully appreciated.

An attempted invasion of the U.K. appears so iminent however that it is not considered justifiable to send two out of four of your available cruisers so far away at the present time.
(1st Lord. 0122/12 to C.in C. H.F.)

15.10.1940.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Following from General Spears. Governor Cameroons just returned from examining land defences Vichy troops in Gaboon. He is mounting tank attack on main position to take place about 23/10. Advancing towards Nyole along Spanish Guinea frontier he hopes his mechanised force will effect junction with Commandant (corrupt group)'s force at Lambarene 48 hours later. As however communications with coast from line of advance practically non existent simultaneous operation against Libreville and possibly port of Gentil necessary. This would take form of air demonstration and bombardment if necessary combined with landing. Officer just joined from Libreville asserts only one 37. millimetre gun there. Surprise necessary for success hence secrecy. Even Chief of Staff unaware of plan. Every endeavour being made to lull Gaboon forces into sense of security and two blockading ships told to keep out of sight of Libreville.
(Vice-Consul, Duala, 1615Z/15).

MOST SECRET.

22.9.1940.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operation 'Menace' and Interception of French Naval Force.

Your 1205/21. Policy of H.M.G. as regards Merchant ships is that if they are escorted they are not to be interfered with.
If STRASBOURG, one or more cruisers or 4 or more Destroyers pass through the Straits they should be shadowed from ahead and if they attempt to proceed to the Northward they must be prevented after due warning. If they proceed to the Southward they should not be interfered with as they cannot now interfere with MENACE. If STRASBOURG proceeds to the Southward she should be shadowed.
(1st S.L. 0255/22 to S.O. Force H.)

F.O. Force M's 0359/21. Following for General de Gaulle from Prime Minister. From every quarter presence of General Catroux was demanded in Syria. I therefore took the responsibility in your name of inviting the General to go there. It is perfectly understood that he holds his position only from you, and I shall make this clear to him again. There is time to stop him still if you desire it, but I should consider this was a very unreasonable act.

All good fortune in your enterprise tomorrow morning.
(1st S.L. to DEVONSHIRE, 1346/22).

26.9.1940.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

A/S Patrols. C.in C. H.F. 1232/23. After consultation with C.in C. H.F. anti U/Boat patrols will be maintained as follows.
A. Off L'Orient.
B. Off Muckle Flugga.
C. Two off South West Coast of Norway.
D. Occasional patrol to westward of German declared area and to westward of St. Kilda.
In addition to Channel patrols one Submarine will be maintained in H one, one off Bordeaux and one occasionally in Skaggerak.
(1813/26).

MOST SECRET.

20.10.1940.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Exchange of Prisoners.

Following from General De Gaulle, Duala Despatch 122. Your 1415N/15. Exchange of our prisoners at Dakar against crew of French submarine AJAX should necessarily be settled together and without distinction for Free French and Englishmen who took part in common operations and fate should be the same. Following are names of officers and N.C.O's of Free French troops arrested at Dakar on active service who should be recovered:
(N.C.S.O. Duala, 0909/20).

21.10.1940.
Monday.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Eli tells me that a "complete train load" of aeroplane bombs of 250-300-350 kilogrammes arrived recently at Casablanca from Port Lyautey and were loaded on French merchant vessel. This ship sailed for Dakar morning of October 15th. It is said bombs were destined for use in operations which will be undertaken against General De Gaulles forces in Cameroons.
(Gibraltar 2030/21 to Adty).

25.10.1940.
Friday.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Libreville, DEVONSHIRE, DELHI.

Message from Prime Minister:- Glad you think good chance of taking Libreville, Continue to perfect your plans with de Gaulle but do not act without our signal. Meanwhile French reinforcements should be made to turn back, if possible without active fighting. Ostentations patrol by DEVONSHIRE and DELHI should be instituted forthwith. (1st S.L. to C.S.1. 1641/25).

Operation "Ration"

Your 1550/24. Operation for interception of of escorted vessels (French merchant) will be called Operation Ration.

/Preparations

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

25.10.1940.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Operation "Ration" (Contd.)

Preparations to be made for it, (date) but owing to internal situation in France, Ration not to be carried out without further Adty. instructions.
(1st S.L. to F.O.C.N.A. 1835 /25).

26.10.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

I should like to raise the following points for discussion at the meeting.

(a) The abolition of present anti-invasion patrol system on account of its inherent weakness and doubtful utility and the consequent effect on the army plans. Greater use of war motor boats in the channel to release A/S vessels and other larger untis.

(b) The introduction of similar invasion orders to all services, all intelligence now distributed to naval Commanders in Chief being read at the Admiralty in conjunction with the latest reconnaissance secret information and estimate of time required for shipping to clear enemy harbours.

(c) The effect of political changes in France on the employment of French ships and the desirability of employing these ships in ports beyond the channel, e.g. Liverpool, Rosyth, and releasing ocean going British ships. The importance of more active employment of French ships from the morale aspect.

(d) Importance now of consolidating beach defence measures. (details).
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1313/26 to Adty).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.8.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements. Contd.

Nore Command	Day patrols and anticipated movements to 1200/17 including convoys. (C. in C., Nore 1200/16)
DEVONSHIRE	My 0012/14. DEVONSHIRE revert to 4 hours notice for steam (C. in C., H.F. 1821/16 to C.S.I.)
	N.O.i/c Belfast 1919/15. Am unable to establish W/T communication with motor launches. 3 trawlers and ACHATES with me. My position course and speed at 1300 will be 090° 8 knots (ARROW 1155/16 to C. in C., W.A.)
D.9.	My position, course, speed 55° 3' N., 14°43'W., 060°, 25 knots. (D.9. 1310/16 to C. in C., W.A.)
Dover Patrols	For night 16/17 Aug. (V.A.Dover 1603/16)
FORTUNE	In order that FORTUNE may have maximum time in which to complete defects she should be sailed from Clyde on 20/8 to join VALIANT in R.V. to be arranged by C. in C., W.A. in North Channel. (D.O.D. (H) 1619/16 to C. in C., W.A. F.O.I.C. Glasgow)
Harbour D.P. Vessel, Port ZA	Drifter BOY ROY has arrived Port ZA from Falmouth to take the place of EMERALD as Harbour Defence Patrol Vessel. She has no gun, no R/T set, no Depth Charge Fittings and has a Civilian Crew on T.124 monthly articles. She is unable to carry out the duties of Harbour Defence Patrol Craft and it is requested that another Drifter armed and manned for the job may be sent to Port ZA. (R.A.M.L. 2155/16 to Adty.)
2 Destroyers for Liverpool	Detail 2 destroyers to proceed to Liverpool at about 2000/17 (C. in C., W.A. 2017/16 to Capt. D. Plymouth)
WANDERER WITCH	*My 1632 16th August. Aircraft will drop flares. Remain on patrol till 0800 17th August, then return to Plymouth. Fighters will be standing by from Daylight. (C. in C., W.A. 2042/16 to WANDERER, WITCH) *No trace in War Reg.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.8.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Patrol N. of Faroes

Owing to weather air co-operation impossible at present and unlikely throughout 16/8 (C. in C., Rosyth 0738/16 to NAIAD, BONAVENTURE)

Patrol T

is to be carried out tonight instead of Patrol O (C. in C., Nore, 1017/16 to D.16, F.O.i/c Harwich)

Brown Ridge Patrol

will be carried out by 3 destroyers tonight (R.A. (S) 1133/16)

Operation by R.M.

A.C.N.S.(H) 1249/16, (C. in C., H.F. 1706/16 See Operations Volume.

A/S.S.F. Belfast

Capt. Ruck-Keene has been appointed TITANIA as Captain A/S Belfast, to take charge of A/S striking forces working in close co-operation with the Air Forces. The striking forces under his control will normally be drawn from (a) 9th D.F. and ships of 12th D.F. attached to W.A. Command. (b) Second division Belfast trawlers force (c) M.L. and motor A/S boats attached to Belfast sub command. Any of these ships may have to be withdrawn at short notice for -other duties. Striking forces when not engaged in hunting may be attached as addition al escort to convoy in their area as directed by Captain A/S Belfast. (C. in C., W.A. 1701/16)

My 1701. Captain A/S Belfast is to assume control of the following ships from 0800/17 HAVELOCK, HURRICANE, HESPERUS, ARROW ACHATES, ANTHONY, AMAZON A/S Trawler PAINTER. YORKSHIRE MAN O' WAR NORTHER DAWN British ships PENTLAND FIRTH ANGLE VICTRIX ARCTIC EXPLORER and M.L. and motor A/S boats. (C. in C., W.A. 2041/16 to TITANIA)

Operation P.C.

Operation P.C. was carried out night 15/16th by M.T.B's 22,33 and 32. Owing to high visibility and moon boats did not penetrate up river. Route taken. No ships seen. North West Hinder, Kwinte Bank and Thornton Ridge Buoys were lit. (C. in C., Nore 1733/16.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.8.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

E-Boats

One E-Boat 100 Beachy Hd. 12.(Portsmouth W/T 2245/16)

Submarines

Submarine Patrol Off Outer Hebrides

Your 1919/13. A. Use of submarines as you suggest has two main disadvantages.
(i) The use of our submarine forces and A/S forces in the same waters may lead to unfortunate incidents, and must anyhow hamper our A/S activities.
(ii) We require all available submarines for normal patrol work.
B. Furthermore our submarines are, on the whole, owing to their size, at a disadvantage against small U-Boats.
C. It is considered therefore that our submarine forces should continue to operate in the North Sea at present. (A.C. N.S. (H) 1614/16 to C. in C., H.F.)

Your 1614/16. The Patrols proposed in my 1919/13 are in an area in which we do not normally operate A/S surface forces. R.A. (S)'s 974/SM of 6/8 para 10 suggests he does not wish to maintain normal patrol near enemy coast until hours of darkness increase. An advantage of our submarines operating to west of Hebrides is that they would know any submarine encountered is hostile in contradiction to frequent and dangerous meetings which recur in North Sea area. I do not share T.S.'s views that our submarines are not a match for U-Boats and as our A/S measures evolved in the past two months ? have been so ineffective I consider any possible form of attack should be exploited. (C. in C., H.F. 2146/16 to Adty.)

H.44

Areas to leave patrol and return to Harwich Route etc., (S.O. Harwich S.F. 1101/16)

Positions

& movements for 24 hours at 0600/17 in Area A (V.A.S. 1614/16, 1824/16) Do. in Area B. (V.A.S. 1616/16)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.8.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

Attack on Dale Viaduct	My 2143/15. Operation post poned on account of weather (Hatston 0412/16)
Attack on M.V.	R.C. Norwegian coast and unsuccessful attack on M.V. (Donibristle 0801/16)
Attack on Flak Ships	Coastal R.C. Lister to 40 miles N. of Utsire. Attack on 8 Flak ships entering Stavanger Fiord, target straddled (Donibristle 1215/16)
Portsmouth	Re-deployment of balloons to cover a gap (Air Min. 1320/16)
Attack on 2 vessels	Unsuccessful attack at 0956 in 54° 55' N., 6° 0' E., on two vessels (Donibristle 1330/16)
Air Searches	for 17/8 (C. in C., Rosyth 1744/16)
Gris Nez	Attack on gun positions night 15/16. Results not observed (H.Q.B.C., 1750/16)
Attack on 2 armed trawlers	Apparently protecting Danish fishing smacks No hits. Position 55° 20' N,m 5° 30' E., (Donibristle 2359/16)

Enemy Air Activity

Raid on Lee-on-Solent	One aircraft possibly minelayer (BLACK SWAN 0105/16) Heavy attack by dive bomber on Lee on-Solent at 1300. Casualties. 2 hangers destroyed and considerable damage to other buildings. Number of aircraft destroyed not yet known. (R.A.N .A.S. 1407/16) Details of damage (Supt. D.E. Portsmouth Dkyd. 2015/16)
Raid on Tilbury	Enemy aeroplanes over Tilbury in three waves of seven each starting noon. Two H.E. bombs dropped one hitting stern gun of S.S. CLAN FORBES in central branch Tilbury Dock believed total casualties 11 mostly Laskars probably 4 dead. Ship including her magazine set on fire but fire now put out. Damage very small. second bomb hit quay near ship. Damage slight. Three bombs in river off Gravesend close to merchant ship. No damage nor casualties. Believed three bombs on Bowater's Paper Mills, Dartford- considerable damage no casualties. All bombs dropped from 5,000 - 8,0000 ft. (F.O.i/c London 1436/16)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.8.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity, Contd.

ACTIVE	My 1440 being shadowed by 2 hostile aircraft, proceeding to protect convoy (ACTIVE 1445/16 to C. in C., W.A.,)
Raid on Portsmouth Area	at 1305. No damage to naval shore establishments except as reported in R.A.N.A.S. 1407/16. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1711/16)
SOLAN	Trawler SOLAN H 184 attacked by 3 aircraft at 1415/16 10 miles W.S.W. Smalls. One aerial torpedo dropped which missed. Ship was then machine-gunned. Air craft left on approach of a destroyer. No ~~danger~~ damage or casualties. (F.O.I.C.Milford Haven 1452/17 C. in C., W.A. 1741/18)
REGARDO (M/S Trawler) damaged	REGARDO was severely damaged in Osborne Bay by a near miss during the air raid this morning, and has been towed into Cowes. Casualty list follows. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1726/16)
Raid on Dover	Enemy aircraft attacked Dover Balloon Barrage at 1230 today Friday and shot down four balloons. (V.A.Dover 1612/16)
Convoy BOOTY	1 aircraft 53° 2' N., 1° 47' E., (VERDUN 2119/16)
Raid on Portsmouth	Air raid occurred between 1649- 1845 today. No ~~danger~~ damage to Admiralty property. (C. in C., Portsmouth 2342/16)

Mining

Humber	Closed to navigation from Spurn Point to 2 miles E. of Chequer Shoal Buoy. Magnetic mines. (F.O.Humber 0103/16, 0104/16) Humber open, anchoring in Grimsby Roads is prohibited (F.O.Humber 1433/16)
	Further to my 1500. Mine exploded by LL trawlers 178° Spurn Point lighthouse 1.25 miles. A large explosion observed two miles to Eastward of Immingham East jetty. One suspected unexploded mine sighted at low water on trinity sands half mile South of Kilnsea. One parachute mine fell and exploded near North Sumner Coates Lincolnshire about two miles inland. (F.O. Humber 2230/16)

/Liverpool.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.8.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining, Contd.

Liverpool	Port closed (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0150/16) Port reopened 1200/16 (F.O.I/C) Liverpool, 1210/16.)
Operation BS 32 (Minelaying N.E. of Cromer)	Completed. Nothing to report. (INTREPID 1210/16)
SS HEATH, sunk	SS HEATH (732 tons) sailing under Eire Flag was sunk by explosion, probably mine at 0740/16 6 to 7 cables N.E. of Dreamer Rock Lighthouse. Examination Vessel MANX LAD also sunk. She was alongside at the time search having been just completed. No casualties but Captain of HEATH, Examination Officer and 4 men slightly injured. (N.O.i/c Holyhead, 1300/16
MANX LAD, sunk	
Operation SN 12	Your 2234/15 Concur (D.D.O.D. (M) 1335/16 to R.A.M.L.) Operation S N 12. D. (2) R.A. M/S ships in CAIRO, INGLEFIELD FIREBRAKE JAVELIN JAGUAR H. To arrive port Z A by 1600 16th August. I. Off Dunnet Head at 1700 17th August. F. CAIRO to part company at Cape Wrath and return to Scapa. Destroyers as ordered by R.A.D. (C. in C., H.F. 1411/16)
Gardening	For tonight (H.Q.C.C. 1555/16)
CACHALOT	Escorted by MANOR in 52° 55' N., 5° 40' W., at 1600 proceeding southwards 10 knots (C. in C., W.A. 1736/16)
MONGOLIA	(Swedish 2124 tons) Swedish broadcast states she sank in Kiel Bay a.m./14 as a result of explosion 13/8 (Air Min. DS 393)
CITY OF BIRMINGHAM	SS CITY OF BIRMINGHAM (5500 tons) mined 6 cables outside swept channel in position 115° Spurn Point 5½ miles. Struck forward of Bridge. D/G switched on. Depth of water five fathoms, now resting where struck. Top deck broken in half, 8 men missing. Master and six of crew injured not seriously. Salvage being investigated. (F.O. Humber 1946/16)

/Operation BS 33.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.8.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining. Contd.

Operation BS 33

BS 33 signal will be made to-morrow Saturday forenoon giving the hours on Sunday 18th during which air escort can be provided so that programme of operation can be arranged so as to make best use of this escort. (C. in C., Nore, 2209/16 to S.O. M/S Immingham, D 20)

Fast Minesweepers

Fast minesweepers will be operating tomorrow near 52° 8' N., 1° 53' E., from 1000 to 1600. Request air protection may be afforded. Code word SOLLO. (C. in C., Nore, 2253/16 to A.O.C. in C., F.C.)

Enemy Intelligence

R.C. of French Ports

St. Malo, Rennes, Lorient, Quimper, Lenevol, Brest, Morlaix, Lannion.- Lorient 1S/m, suspected submarines on 13/8 have gone.

Positions of Heavy Ships

Kiel 15th August. Situation as my 1634/13; in addition KOLN at Holtenau.
Wilhelmshaven
2nd August TIRPITZ completing. Not seen on 15th August owing to cloud covering Bauhafen 15th August 1 - 8" cruiser in floating dock.
Bremen
2nd August. SCHLITZ completing.
Hamburg
2nd August. BISMARCK Completing.
Unknown:- EMDEN probably repairing
GRAF ZEPPELIN
ADMIRAL SCHEER
LEIPZIG
NURNBERG
(D.D.I.D. 1654/16)

E-Boats at Boulogne

PRU report 1500/16 Boulogne 11 E-Boats certain one of which has just arrived. Another seen 5 miles from harbour proceeding N.W. No shipping Le Touquet, Berck sur Mer and South of Somme (PIU 0540/17)

Air R.C. French Ports

Summary (D.D.I.C. 1529/17)

MOST SECRET

16.8.1940.
Friday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoys	
OA 192	Position; passes latitude Cape Wrath 1915/16 southbound (A.C.O.S. 0736/16 1021/16
6 M.V's	Group of 6 ships to sail west tomorrow night 17/8. Question of Weymouth call, undesirable to arrive there during night. Intend to sail direct to Dartmouth (C. in C., Portsmouth 1917/16)
HX 63	Orders to escort, ROCHESTER and HEARTSEASE (C. in C., W.A. 1321/16) MACKAY and PRIMROSE to join (C. in C., W.A. 1309/16) PRIMROSE position (PRIMROSE 2048/16)
HX 63 B	PRIMROSE to join. Position (MACKAY 1926/16)
Troop Transports	Re sailing of ETTRICK, SOBIESKI, KENYA and KARANJA; French vessels FOUDIN and MYSON; and WESTERNLAND and FINLAND (D. of S.T., 0148/17)
OBM 192	Left with LEEDS UNITED (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1001/14, 1023/16)
MT 7	Arrived 0720/16. (N.S.C.O. Methil 0801/16)
MN 8	Sailed 0814/16. List (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1115/16
OBM 200	To sail 2130/17. Escorts (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1023/16)
ULSTER MONARCH	Arrived Thorshaven (N.O.I.C. Faroes 0705/16)
MachineGuns	Arrangements being made for all ships leaving U.K. ports to be provided with machine guns. (D.T.D., 1849/16) (See America & West Indies)
Overdue Ships	Suggesting masters be directed always to announce their safety when danger has ceased after sending a distress message. (C. in C., E.I., 1213/16)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.8.1940.
Friday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

TALLYRAND — Overdue Cape Town 9/8 from Fremantle (C. in C., E.I. 0812/2/16)

AJAX — Circumstances of collision 14/8 (C. in C., H.F. 1229/16)

HILMA — (Reported 13/8 overdue at Capetown 9/8) has arrived at Cape Town (S.O. (1) Cape Town 1058/16)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.8.40.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

RENOWN — Cancel my 1031/15. Proceed Gibraltar. (1st S.L. to S.O. Force H., 0032/16). R.V. for destroyers. (F.O., Force H., 0201/16).

Cables — Adty. 1249/10. Italian Lisbon Malaga cable diverted into Gibraltar. Fault to Lisbon Gibraltar No. 2 cable repaired. Italian Las Palmas - St. Vincent cable will be cut when escort is available. (F.O.C.N.A. 1726/16).

South Atlantic

French Troops — French Troops Gold Coast interviewed by Commandant Parant, Officer sent by de Gaulle to Command troops. Approximately 448 officers and ORs. and 46 Moroccoan labourers require transport from West Africa. Troopship due at Takoradi in next few days will give opportunity which most unlikely recur for some time to remove these men. Urge strongly earliest possible evacuation. (G.O.C., W. Africa, 0100/16 to W.O.)

Convoy WS.2 — Sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1926/16). Position and route. (C. in C., S.A. 0730/16 to CORNWALL).
CORNWALL left escorting fast section. (S.O.I., Freetown, 1521/16). SHROPSHIRE arrived with slow section. (S.O.I., Freetown, 1815/16).

Overdue Ship — My 1028/13. British BHIMA arrived Cape Town. (S.O.I., Cape Town, 1058/16).

D/Cs in aircraft — Adty. 1815/9, use of depth charges by shore-based aircraft. Assumed this policy is also applicable to F.A.A. aircraft. Trials being carried out with Swordfish. Not considered practicable to carry standard size D.C. in Walrus aircraft. (C. in C., S.A., 1817/16).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.8.40.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic (Contd.)

Bills of Lading — My 0123/27/7, 2137/31/7, and 2223/8. Asking if Campbell, Capetown, agreed to arrangements as regards commercial cargoes including repetition to D. of S.T. of telegrams which he sends to Baykar. (D. of S.T., 1945/16 to C. in C., S.A.).

S/m Report — A/S trawler MOOIVLEI reports having attacked S/m contact with one D/C, 1645/15. (H.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1118/16). Probably not S/m (1544/16). Cancel my 1118/16, A/S officer has not doubt it was not S/m. (2226/16).

Mediterranean

Oiling — Your 1511/2. Details for destroyers and cruisers, with times, also asking if destroyers coming to Grand Harbour can carry out A/S sweep on way in. (F.O.I.C., Malta, 1215/16, to C. in C., Med.)

V.A.A. Staff — Adty. 2051/14. Propose Lt.Com. Waymouth remain Flag Lieut. to R.A.(A), Med., and Lt. Com. Wyldbore-Smith return to England with me. (V.A.A., 1627/16).

Ships for Charter — ITSUKUSHIMA and KARADGORDJE belonging to Jadranska Plovidba available for charter, laid up at Novigrad, company would have to sail them to Greek port, otherwise German-Italian pressure would succeed in preventing them leaving Adriatic. (N.A., Belgrade, 1945/16).

Cables — Last cable between Gibraltar and Malta cut about 009° E. longitude. (N.A., Alexandria 2001/16).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.8.40.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (Contd.)

Operation "Bonnet" — Possible plan. (F.O. Force H., 1929/16, to C. in C., Med.) See Mediterranean Volume.

Mediterranean - Air

Organisation & Personnel — Your 1823/14 and 1945/14. ILLUSTRIOUS and accompanying ships bringing out personnel for Naval Air Station, Mariut, and Repair Yard, Fayid (details). Suggestions re supernumerary F.F. and T.S.R. Sqdns, etc. (D.N.A.D. to C. in C., Med., 1154/16).

Air Raids, Alexandria — Raids 2150 to midnight, about 12 planes and 20 bombs. 2 Egyptian casualties. Damage negligible. (R.A., Alexandria, 1314/16).

East Indies

PETRAKIS NOMIKOS — Greek ship. My 0742/13 and your 1701/11. Description of ship by N.C.S.O. Basra. Master's explanation. At no time trying to avoid warship. Request you investigate next opportunity with PARRAMATTA and KIMBERLEY. (C. in C., E.I., to S.N.O. Red Sea 0810Z/16).

Convoy RS.5 — Cancel my 1220/10. CARTHAGE to escort R.S.5 from Durban to Aden. Route. (C. in C., E.I., 1130Z/16).

Shipping — Asking if Campbell, Calcutta, agreed to arrangements as regards commercial cargoes including repetition to D. of S.T. of relegrams which he sends to Barker. (D. of S.T. to C. in C., E.I., 1944/16).

Local Defence Vessels — Adty. Letter M. 07805/40 of 15/5. In view of (a) Italian entry into War (b) possibility of Portuguese East Africa being ~~used~~ used as hostile submarine bases, suggest British East African Colonial Government be also approached regarding provision of a additional vessels ~~for~~ Shatt-El-Arab (ii) Is any provision being made for addition vessels for Shatt-El-Arab? (C. in C., E.I., 1128Z/16).

MOST SECRET

16.8.40.
Friday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies (Contd.)

Italian S/m Operations

Adty. 1554/20/6 and my 0808/6/7. Information by further interrogation at Karachi re LUIGI GALVANI, re torpedoes, diving depth, D/F apparatus, etc. (C. in C., E.I., 1614Z/16).

Raider

Adty. 1626/14. Norwegian TALLEYRAND overdue Cape Twon 9/8 from Fremantle may indicate raider has proceeded eastward south-about Australia or westward via Cape. More probably latter and object may be to return home. (C. in C., E.I., 0812Z/16)

Troop Transports

My 1340/14 and M.E. 16356, 15/8. Destinations of KHOSROU, NIZAM, RAJPUT, EL MADINA, AMRA, JALA MOHAN, RIZWANI, EKMA, and BANKURA. (P.S.T.O. Bombay, 1302/16).

East Indies - Air

Berbera Raids

Berbera bombing attacks 16/8.
(i) 0245 2 aircraft engaged by HOBART, CARLISLE, SHOREHAM and shore batteries. Bombs dropped well at the back of Ber-bera. No naval damage.
(ii) 1030/2 aircraft engaged by CARLISLE, HOBART and shore batteries. Pursued by Blenheims. Stick of bombs close to SHOREHAM. 3 bombs between HOBART and shore. No damage.
(iii) 1100 2 aircraft engaged by ships and shore batteries. 12 bombs along the coast road. No naval damage.
(iv) All times G.M.T. (C. in C., E.I., 1440Z/16).

My 1440/16. One enemy bomber down in desert south of Berbera. (C. in C., E.I., 0458/17).

Mining

During air raid on Alexandria 15/8 3 bombs, mines or aerial torpedoes dropped near entrance to harbour by low flying aircraft without explosions. Two large wooden tailfins picked up. Skid has been towed over buoyed positions with no result. Sweeping and diving will be tried tomorrow. Owing to extreme danger of magnetic mines in Alexandria harbour and Great Pass with our meagre resources for dealing with them, can any indication be given as to probable nature of projectile? Can magnetic mines be dropped without parachutes? (R.A., Alexandria, 2359/16). Reply (D.M.S. 1425/17).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.8.40.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

ARAWA — Will not proceed to Fremantle. (C. in C., China, 01552/16).

America and West Indies.

Shipping — Your 1308/14. Confirmed cargo should be loaded. (Details of capacity of GEORGIC, DUCHESS OF YORK, EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA, ORONSAY). (D. of S.T. to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 0734/16).

Suspicious vessels. — Your 1106/14. Attention of Master of TREKIEVE should be drawn to A.M.S.I. 104 (D.T.D. to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1531/16).

Merchant Ship Guns — Your 1052/15. Arrangements have been made for distribution of limited number of machine guns to allied ships at Canadian ports. In near future, all ships leaving U.K. ports will be provided with machine guns. (D.T.D. to C. in C., A.W.I., 1849/16).

Spanish Trawlers — Report from ARLETTA re complicity of Spanish trawler in torpedoing of SARANAC and WINDSORWOOD (C. in C., A.W.I. 0956/16).

Troop Transports — In LADY DRAKE, NEW NORTHLAND, and H.M.S. ASCANIA (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1338/16 to C.O.A.C. Halifax etc.)

Convoy Escorts — Forecast of H.X. Convoy escorts. (F.O. 3 B.S. 1615/16).

Australia

ORCADES U.S.4. — Will not be specially allocated for military service under chapter party T.97 for voyage in U.S.4 but continue on liner requisition scheme under T.99A and administered by owners. Troops will therefore take passage on freight basis and vessel will load cargo in Australia. (D. of S.T., 0733/16).

Shipping — Asking if Gordon, Sydney, agreed to arrangements as regards commercial cargoes including repetition to D. of S.T. of telegrams he sends to Barker. (D. of S.T. and A.C.N.B. 1946/16).

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

16.8.40.
Friday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

WESER

My 1004/10. Panama report FAGERFJELL (Norwegian) arrived Manzanillo discharged 20,000 barrels fuel oil. WESER now loading. Master applied for 18,000 barrels of fuel oil and 1000 drums Diesel lubricating oil which latter must go overland from Tampico. (S.O.I. Kingston, 1026/16).

ERMLAND, SCHARNHORST, R.C. RICKMERS, ELSA ESSBERGER — Arrived Kobe 5/8.

HAVELLAND — Arrived Yokohama from Manzanillo 12/8.

BREMERHAVEN, FULDA — Left Daisen 14/8.

(Capt. on Staff, Singapore, 0908Z/16).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.8.40.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

EMPIRE MERCHANT — British 4864 tons) torpedoed 55°21 N., 13.40 W. (Lands End, 0750/16). Not in convoy (D.S. 346) 2nd Officer reports torpedoed am/16. 3 boats left ship picked up 2nd officer boat 7 passengers 14 crew he reports Captain and Chief Officer's boats spoken to 17/8 sailing E true from Master Supetar (No T.O.O. Rec. 0844/18). Sunk approx. 170 miles west of Tory Island 0620/16. Approx. 30 missing of which 23 probably saved. Information from first officer. (Surveyor, Customs, Londonderry, 1226/18).

HEDRUN — Swedish, 2325 tons, torpedoed 57.10 N., 16.37 W. (Newfoundland, 1011/16, Wick Radio, 1117/16). My 0934. If close to HEDRUN, torpedoed 57.10 N., 16.37 W. at 1118/16, attack this U-boat. (C. in C., W.A. to Capt. D.9 1150/16). A, searching area. EMPIRE SOLDIER has 18 xx survivors and ROCHESTER 4. Continuing A/S search. My D.R. position is 57.15 N., 16.43 W. (ROCHESTER, 1315/16). Your 1315. Cancel my 1321. ROCHESTER and HEARTSEASE continue hunt. (C. in C., W.A. 1526/16). Was in unescorted convoy OB.197 (D.S. 346). Straggler from OB.197 (D.O.R. 17/8). Survivors rescued by other steamers (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1645/18).

ALCINOUS — Dutch, 6189 tons, torpedoed 57.16 N., 1702 W. (Wick Radio, 1220/16). Am standing by ALCINOUS in 57.21 N., 17.03 W. Ship torpedoed in No. 1 hold, which is on fire, not yet under control. Down by head but floating comfortably. Cannot steer in present wind, force 5. Tug required. (ROCHESTER, 1721/16). My position course and speed, 57.35 N., 16.19 W., 180 degs., 4 knots, escorting ALCINOUS, fire still uncontrolled. Owing to weather had to abandon attempt to send assistance by boat. (ROCHESTER, 0029/17). Convoy OB.197 (D.O.R. 17/8). Ship is being escorted into port, by ROCHESTER. Send tug (C. in C., W.A. 1151/7 to F.O.I.C. Greenock). Fire now extinguished (ROCHESTER 1901/17). A/c located in 56.09 N., 8.31 W. at 1840/18 and empty lifeboats in vicinity. (A.C.H.Q. Plymouth, 2140/18).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.8.40.
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

CLAN MACPHEE — British, 6628 tons, KELET, intercept please help with rescue. No further particulars available. (Valentia Radio, 1826/16).
De KELET, 56.50 N., 17.40 W., CLAN MACPHEE torpedoed 1737 G.M.T. (Valentia Radio, 1900/16). Repeating position and asking for help pick up survivors (Valentia Radio, 1920/16).
Received from Malin Head Radio, intercepted by them at 1836, KELET wants help, no position given. Is bearing from Malin Head Radio 300 approx. (F.O. I.C., Greenock, 2000/16).
Received from Port Patrick Radio from KELET 56.50 N., 17.40 W., CLAN MACPHEE torpedoed 1737 G.M.T. asking pick up survivors. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 2059/16).
In convoy OB.197. (D.O.R. 17/8). 13 Europeans and 38 native crew rescued by Hungarian S.S. KELET. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1645/18).

Submarines Reported

0331 — Unidentified crossing reported on number three loop. VEGA and WESTMINSTER raise steam and carry out hunt with special reference to safety of ships in Largo Bay. LONDONDERRY and WOLFHOUND to join hunt when their convoy is in and all four ships are to carry out a thorough search of Forth between May Is. and Methil under direction of VEGA. (C. in C., Rosyth, 0331/16).

VEGA and WESTMINSTER to discontinue A/S search in time to proceed with convoy M.T. (C. in C., Rosyth, 0811/16). LONDONDERRY and WOLFHOUND have completed search of area between 002.52 W. to the May Is. Loop and the sweep channel Adty. Q.Z.S. 142 as far as Inchkeith East Gate and back. No contact. Should dangerous area between this Meridian and Inchkeith be searched? (LONDONDERRY, 1012/16). Firm contact in position 245 Blieness 2.9 (WOLFHOUND 1154/16). Your 1154. If you consider it s/m, blast it well and see if can get visible results. (C. in C., Rosyth to WOLFHOUND 1255/16). 5 patterns fired, no visible result. (WOLFHOUND, 1329/16). Unless you still consider contact possible U-boat, continue search as in my 1134. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1417/16).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.8.40.
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported (Continued)

0934	Your 0934 (re attack on enemy s/m). Already proceeding, expected time of arrival 1400. (Capt. D.9, 1036/16 to C. in C., W.A.)
1337	One submerged s/m bearing 315° distance 0.5 miles, course unknown, my position 55.26 N., 10.01 W. (CHESHIRE, 1337/16). Am hunting with group in position 55.14 N., 9.53 W., where CHESHIRE reported periscope at 1345. (ARROW, 1409/16). ANTHONY proceeding to join ARROW at daylight. (ANTHONY, 2300/16).
1210	U-boat reported in position 50.58 N., 5.40 W., at 1210. (R.A.(S) to CACHALOT, 1924/16).
1928	S.S. KELET, 56.50 N., 17.40 W. submarine sighted. (Valentine Radio, 1928/16). TRELAWNY, submarine sighted (? 1928/16). (CLAN MACPHEE torpedoed) Received at 1930 G.M.T. by Port Patrick Radio, de TRELAWNEY, 57.41 N., 18.23 W., submarine sighted. (F.O.I.C., GREENOCK, 2102/18).
1721	Detach one destroyer to join ROCHESTER hunting u/boat in position (see ALCINOUS, torpedoed) 57.21 N., 17.03 W. at 1721. (C. in C., W.A. to Capt. D.9, 2234/16). Your 2234. HESPERUS detailed (Capt. D.9 2318/16).
0204	Unidentified crossing reported No. 3 loop at May Is. A/S search being carried out. In view of indiscriminate magnetic mining, consider it unlikely that U/B would enter and therefore consider HOOD should carry out her programme. (C. in C., Rosyth, 0841/16).
0743	55.21 N., 13.40 W., HAVELOCK, HESPERUS and HURRICANE to attack, Sunderland co-operating. (C. in C., W.A., 0934/16).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported (Continued)

0748 — 55.21 N., 13.40 W. (EMPIRE MERCHANT torpedoed). Attack with all your force less M.L.'s. (C. in C., W.A., to ARROW, 1239/16). Join me 1230/17 position 55.20 N., 08.08 W., (ARROW to ANTHONY 2058/16).

South Atlantic

1118 — By trawler MOOIVLEI (false). See South Atlantic, Foreign Stations.

Estimated U/B Dispositions

Still no news of the one last heard ofeast of the Azores on 12th August.
1 in Lorient
1 in W.A. or farther south.
1 passing through N.W.Approaches homeward bound W. of 15° W.
1 in 55°21' N., 13°40' W. at 0750/16.
2 others in N.W. Approaches
1 in 57°10' N., 16°37' W. at 1011/16 outward bound.
Possibly 1 N.E. of Rockall outward bound.
1 N. of Shetlands homeward bound.
(D.D.I.C. 1252/16).

Submarines Attacked

1154 — By WOLFHOUND (see S/ms Reported)

1417 — By a/c escorting convoy OA.198, 56.35 N., 12.55 W. One d/c 100 ft., one d/c 150 ft., four 250 lb. A/S bombs. Two ~~stfx~~ direct hits by depth charges. U-boat blown to decks awash first and right out of water second time. Both depth charges 20 ft. ahead of conning tower, stick of A/S bombs 30 yards ahead of where U/b sank. On return to scene of attack 40 mins. later 3 more air bubbles observed. GLEANER brought to position at 1630, carried out sweep, and at 1710 signalled "Well done". (15 Group, 2236/16).

A/c escort of OA 198 has attacked and probably damaged U/b in position 56.35 N., 12.55 W. Possible this is EMPIRE MERCHANT U-boat (C. in C., W.A., to Capt. D.9, ARROW, 1626/16). Your 1239 and my 1409.

Failing.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.8.40.
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Attacked (Contd.)

1417 (Contd.)	Failing further instructions intend retaining whole of force on present hunt. (ARROW, 1642/16). 9th D.F. Striking Force searching area. (Capt. D.9, 2219/16).
1530	A/c report attacking U-boat in position 50.57 N 05.28 W. at 1530. (C. in C., W.A., 1844/16).
1855	My 1850. Have attacked enemy with bombs level, estimate no hits. (A/c, 220 Sqdn., 1855/16).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

17.8.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

U.S.A. Destroyers V.C.N.S. 1942/17 to N.O. Melbourne see Operations Volume.

Defence of U.K.

AURORA Your 0859/17. While boiler cleaning should have steam at 6 hours notice. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1141/17 to AURORA).

New Red and Green Flare Alarm Signals In force today. Ensure that all concerned are fully informed. (C. in C., W.A., 1228/17).

Portsmouth Balloon Barrage Deployment of 6 Balloons from land to water is practicable when craft provided. Request authority to proceed forthwith. (H.Q. Balloon Command 1830/17 to Air Ministry).

Isle of Wight Fort Victoria and Hurst Castle Your 3868/0115/G/4 of 5th August. Fitting of 3 Torpedo tubes at Fort Victoria approved, and tubes being ordered now. Torpedo tubes at Yarmouth pier not approved. Request early survey and report of work necessary to make Hurst Castle Pier usable as a second or alternative site. (D. of L.D. 1958 and 1959/17 to C. in C., Portsmouth).

Movements

Western Approaches Destroyers To provide escorts for Fast ships and special convoys from Liverpool and Clyde I have transferred 2 of 17th D.F. to Liverpool leaving only 5 at Plymouth. In view of intensive U-boat campaign, consider more destroyers are required in this command. (C. in C., W.A. 0059/17 to Adty.)

Nore Command Night dispositions 17/18 (C. in C., Nore 0800/17). Day patrols and movements to 1200/18 (C. in C., Nore, 1200/17).

Belfast A/S Striking Force A.C.W.A.'s 2041/16. Intend HAVELOCK, HESPERUS HURRICANE leave area 0800/18 for Liverpool. Reference N.O.I.C. Liverpool's 2200/15 none of these has enough fuel to enable her accompany HARVESTER on escort to 20° W. Intend HIGHLANDER should join HARVESTER in area on completing boiler cleaning. (Capt. D.9 1113/17 to Capt. A/S Belfast).

MOST SECRET

17.8.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements (Contd.)

Your 2017/16. WANDERER and WITCH detailed. (Capt. D. Plymouth 1112/17 to C. in C., W.A.) WANDERER and WITCH sail for Liverpool 2000/17. (C. in C., W.A. 1751/17 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).

Floating Dock No. XII. — LOWESTOFT, LONDONDERRY, EGRET, STORK, and 5 A/S trawlers to escort dock from Tyne to Scapa. Escort to arrive Tyne 19th August. C.O. LOWESTOFT in charge of operation. Air escort will be provided, and fighter protection continuously available if required. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1137/17 to F.O.I.C. Tyne).

Dover — Patrols for night 17/18. (V.A. Dover 1454/17).

BIRMINGHAM, SOUTHAMPTON — On passage Sheerness to Rosyth pass Aldeburgh Light Float 2100/17 and Flamborough Head 0420/18. Speed 24 knots. Request fighter protection. (C. in C., Nore, 1652/17 to H.Q.F.C.)

Portsmouth — Night movement signal for night 17/18. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1807/17 to Adty.)

M.T.B. — One M.T.B. left Ramsgate 2130/17 for Belgian Coast, returning at dawn. (C. in C., Nore 2154/17 to WIVERN).

DUNCAN, CATTISTOCK — Proceed passing Switha Gate at 1000/18 to arrive Liverpool 1000/19. Required as escort for convoy M.P. (see Operations) (R.A.D. H.F. 2220/17 to DUNCAN).

ECHO — Proceed passing Switha at 1040/18 and R.V. S.E. Pentland Skerries Capt. D.3 escorting M.L. Squadron returning to Port ZA. (R.A.D. H.F. 2225/17 to ECHO).

Patrol T. — To be carried out each night unless otherwise ordered. Cancel all previous signals on this subject. (C. in C., Nore, 0925/17 to D.16).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

17.8.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Iceland — M/V. KONINGIN EMMA sailed 0800/17 with convoy for U.K. carrying R.M. pom-pom battery, officers, ratings, stores, and ammunition. (Alabaster, Reykjavik 1200/17 to W.O.)

Your 1424/29/7. These eight 4" guns can be supplied at one weeks notice from 164 allocated for coast defence in Adty. 1506/17/7 Will be necessary to bring eight of 4" guns allocated for beach defence in June 1940 to one months notice instead. (D. of L.D. 2058/17 to W.O.).

Operation by R.M. — Convoy MP sails 19/8. (V.C.N.S. 1241/17 to C. in C., W.A. and C. in C., H.F. 1855/17 to R.A.D., H.F.). See Operations Volume.

Shetlands. Rules for opening A.A. fire — Ref. para. 7 Adty's 0311/20/7. Consider rules should be like those throughout U.K. except Scapa, and should be based on following principles. Do you agree. (H.Q.F.C. 1800/17 to F.O.I.C. Shetlands).

Submarines

Positions — For 24 hours following 0600/18 in area A. V.A.S. 1616/17). In area B. (V.A.S. 1617/17).

H.31 — Leave patrol 2200/18, returning Blyth. (Capt. S.6 0910/17 to H.31).

Adty. 1833/7/7. — Positions (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1715/17 to Adty.

E.Boats

Boulogne — Instructions for operation at dusk 17th. to destroy 11 E-boats and shipping in harbour. (H.Q.C.C. 1300/17 to 16 group).

At 1450/17 PRU Sortie shows 9 E-boats at Quai Gambetta, 6 in Bassin Loubet, and 3 moving in harbour. (PIU Wembley 2357/17 to N.I.D.)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

17.8.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

Air Searches — For 18/8. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1840/17 and 2038/17).

Armed Trawlers — At. 1930/17 in 55°3' N. 6°2' E. one aircraft 9 armed trawlers in line ahead about 500 yards apart. 3 bombs dropped and only 8 trawlers seen after attack. (Donibristle 2340/17 to Adty.)

Enemy Air Activity

At 52°30' N., 5°49' W., ship SDGB attacked by German aircraft. (Portsmouth W/T 1056/17).

ST. PATRICK — (Fishguard/Rosslare S.S.) At 10' East Tuskar, attacked. (Plymouth W/T 1105/17). R.N.O. Fishguard reports her bombed and machine gunned in Irish territorial waters early today. One passenger and one crew wounded. Gun just installed. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2300/17 to Adty.) My2300/17. R.N.O. Fishguard informs me the two casualties with only leg injuries have both died. Evidence that copper bullets used, causing gangrene. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1127°/18 to Adty.)

Raid on Bristol Channel — 16/17 Aug. Cardiff damage to buildings and railway lines. Swansea - damage to G.W.R. line, to docks. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1450/17).

BLAIRESK — British (3300 tons). Attacked by German Flying Boat at about 58°47' N., 6°55' W. (Wick Radio 1220/17).

Eastbourne — Bombs heard dropping to eastward (PWSS Newhaven 2314/17 to N.O.I.C. Newhaven). Aircraft dropped bomb west of Holywell, Eastbourne. (Coastguard Eastbourne 2315/17 to N.O.I.C. Newhaven).

BIFROST — Swedish (1781 tons) unsuccessfully attacked by aircraft at 1150/17 in 52°30' N., 5°40' W. Also reports at least one hit on another vessel 10 miles off. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1244/18 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

17.8.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity (Contd.)

YEWKYLE — British (824 tons) seriously damaged in engine room by 3 enemy aircraft near 52°40' N. 5°35' W. at 1130/17. LEEDS UNITED is towing her to Milford Haven. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 2346/17 to Adty.)
Attacked by 3 aircraft at 1145/17, position as above. Disabled and towed to Milford Haven. Seems established that YEWKYLE was ship seen by BIFROST (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1315/19).

Mining

Fast Minesweepers — Will be operating today near 52°8' N. 1°53' E. Code word SOLLO. Fighter protection will be afforded if ships are threatened. (H.Q.F.C. 0100/17 to 12 Group).

SN.12 — Departures Port ZA at 2300/16 SCOTT; and at 0530/17, RAML - in SOUTHERN, PRINCE, PORT NAPIER, PORT QUEBEC, MENESTHAUS and Capt.D.3 in INGLEFIELD, JAGUAR, JAVELIN, FIREDRAKE, to carry out SN.12. (TRELAWNEY 0547/17 to Adty.)

Portsmouth — Port closed to all ships. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 0316/17 to Adty.) Port open to all ships except for local restrictions inside the boom. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1602/17 to Adty.)

Milford Haven — Port is closed. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 0425/17 to Adty.) Port is open (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1316/17 to Adty.)
2 mines suspected laid last night. None exploded today. Port will be closed from sunset tonight until 1100/18. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1911/17 to Adty.)

Tyne — S.S. EARL OF BUCHAN reports a German Motor-boat minelaying 10 miles E. by N. of 21 F. Buoy at 2000/17. Picked up a German mine in trawl. Report from A/P trawler KOPANES. (X.D.O. Tyne, 0750/18 to F.O.I.C. Tyne).

Harwich — One magnetic mine detonated by LL sweep at 0755/17 in 51°53' N. 1°34' E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1128/17 to Adty.)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

17.8.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining (Contd.)

Off Bristol Channel — Aircraft observed mine on surface, blow up at 1215/17 in 51°3' N., 5°48' W. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q. 1700/17).

Falmouth — One red mine exploded at 1057/17 at 188° St. Anthony 15½ cables. (F.O.I.C. Famouth, 1800/17 to C. in C., W.A.).

Miscellaneous

French Torpedo Boats — Are without Asdics and not yet efficient operationally. Propose to use S-class destroyers in their place (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1727/17 to Adty.).

KILMUN (Cable ship) — Operations postponed for the present owing to enemy mining and aircraft activity. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1722/17 to Adty.)

Adty. Message A.F. — Propose to reduce period from 48 hours to 12 hours. (A.C.N.S. H. 1727/17 to C. in C., H.F.). Your 1727. Concur (C. in C., W.A. 2239/17 to Adty.)

Shipping

Convoys

OA.201 — Leaves Methil 1600/18, close escort SKEENA, GODETIA. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1138/17 1221/17).

OA.200 — Expects to arrive Cape Wrath 0300/18 (RESTIGOUCHE 0630/17).

CE.9 (TOTEM) — Leaves Falmouth for Dartmouth 2000/17 escorted by trawlers BASSETT and GREENFLY. Detail 6 M. A/S.B's to cover. Code word TOTEM (C. in C., W.A. 1459/17 to M.A.S. base Fowey).

Adty. 1939/13, 2245/15, 2051/17, C. in C. Portsmouth 1727/17. Intend to sail BERKELEY and GARTH from Nore Command to arrive Portsmouth am/20 and form escort of

CE.9.....

War Diary

MOST SECR.

17.8.40.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping (Contd.)

Convoys	
CE.9 (Contd.)	CE.9. Request arrangements for M.A. S/B's detailed in Adty. 1939/13 to be available at Portsmouth by pm/19/8. It is understood that endurance of M.A. S/B's is limited to 10 hours without margin for operational requirements. Propose M.A.S/B's should accompany convoy from St. Helens until daylight 21/8 then proceed to Newhaven where they should await next CW.
CW.10	Timetable of convoys to be as in my 2220/16/7. CW.10 to leave Southend 23/8 M.A.S/B's joining from Newhaven before dark. C. in C., Portsmouth pass to S.O. Mobile Balloon Barrage and Bassett on arrival. (C. in C., Nore 2304/17 Adty. 2051/17 to C. in C., Nore).
EN.3	Sailing 1200/19 escort FANDANGO and NORTHERN PRIDE (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1536/17).
OA.280	KIPLING proceed to join CAMELIA escorting convoy OA.280 passed Pentland 1600 Westbound. Expected time of arrival Cape Wrath 0408/18 continue escort until RESTIGOUCHE joins. Thence to return to Scapa. BURZA act in accordance with my 1043/17. (R.A.(D) 2054/17).
HX.66	Sailing telegram (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1002/17, 1009/17)(S.C.N.O., Halifax, 1007/17).
SHX.67	Advance sailing telegram. (N.C.S.O. Sydney, 1117/17).
CE.9	Re escort. No M.A/S.B's available at Portsmouth French T.Bs without asdics and not yet efficient. Proposed to use S class destroyers (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1727/17).
WN. Convoys	Ships of less than 8 knots for E. coast ports south of Methil not for the present to be included unless their draft is 14 ft. or less, thus permitting them to use E. coast standard inshore route. (D.T.D. 1951/17).
OBM.200	10 ships sailed 2125/17. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 2155/17).
OGM.41	19 ships will sail 2145/18. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 2155/17).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

17.8.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping (Contd.)

Kites for Channel Convoy	No objection to kites being flown in the channel convoy continuously day and night provided they are not flown above 1500 ft. (Air Min. 1706/17). Your 1917/16. As about 14 ships from Falmouth will be arriving Dartmouth at dawn 18/8 and this represents the maximum number that Dartmouth can deal with at any one time, you should defer sailing of Portsmouth Group for 24 hours. (D.T.D. 1507/17 to C. in C., Portsmouth).
CHARENTE	Norwegian. News (B.O.) received from Oslo that ship is to be taken over by authorities there and cargo for Vigo discharged and stored at Gothenburg. (Vigo 1800/17).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

17.8.40.
Saturday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

CLAN RANALD	(overdue) My 1138/14. CLAN RANALD arrived Cape Town, (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1008/17).
CITY OF BAGDAD	My 1726/18/7 and S.O.I. Singapore 0809/18/7. Request information whether now presumed lost. (C. in C., East Indies, 0538Z/17 to Adty.)
CITY OF BIRMINGHAM Mined 16/8	Tug SCOTSMAN left Hull at 1740/17 for CITY OF BIRMINGHAM. (Salvage Officer Hull 1803/17 to Adty.)
BROOMDALE	No news of oiler BROOMDALE since my 1613/9 and S.N.O's 1856/10. (N.C.S.O. Trinidad, 1750/17).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.6.1940.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

VAA — Re Passage.

ENCHANTRESS — To sail with HG 42 19/8. (D.O.D. (F) 1937/17 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic

SIDI FERRUCH — Arrived Duala 13/8 after which French military aircraft left for Yaunde immediately. (G.O.C.W.Africa, Accra 0400/17)

BRIDGEWATER — To proceed to Takoradi to disembark French refugees. (C. in C., S.A. 1220/17)

CLAN RANALD — My 1130/14. CLAN RANALD arrived Cape Town (S.O.I., Cape Town, 1008/17)

CABLE ENTERPRISE — Your 1103/11. CABLE ENTERPRISE left 17/8 due Freetown 30/8. (S.N.O.Trinidad 1700/17 to C. in C., A.W.I.)

St. Vincent, Shipping — Your 1638/8. To meet now situation following are my intentions except that Admty. ruling is requested under (i) where indicated.
(i) majority of the ships which have until recently bunkered at Cape Verde Is. or Canary Is. are fast oil burning ships for which there are 4 alternatives: (a) to continue to call at St. Vincent for bunkers. (b) To proceed direct to U.K. port, Admty. accepting especially such ships leaving home with the minimum fuel. (c) To call at Freetown, where fuel situation will now permit a number of these fast ships. (D) A combination of (A) and (C). Of these alternatives (B) is contrary to policy and not recommended. For (C) and (D) instructions to owners would have to be given by Admiralty to ensure compliance.

(ii) All oil burning and motor vessels not included in (i) above can and will be fuelled at Freetown (iii) Coal burning vessels: procedure outlined in My 1905/25/7 to be followed, namely (a) all ships at present routed to Freetown to join S.L. convoy will normally be bunkered at Freetown; (b) Contraband ships independently routed to U.K. and requiring coal en route will bunker at St. Vincent but will in

/future.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

St. Vincent, Shipping, Contd.	future be sailed from there at dusk on unusual course. Meanwhile instructions have been issued in accordance with proposals in D. of S.T. 1615/8.
	(iv) Freetown water supplies. Pending improvements envisaged I do not intend to issue fresh instructions. Ships sailing for Freetown from South Atlantic ports are being warned in accordance with my 1905/25/7. (C. in C., S.A. 1410/17 to Adty.)
Dispositions	(i) DELHI is operating to north of Cape Verde Is. for next few days and then returning to Freetown. (ii) ASTURIAS escorting transport ORION expected at Freetown from U.K. p.m. 21/8. (iii) CATHAY arrives Freetown a.m. 21/8 from Cape. (iv) Netherlands Cruiser SUMATRA expected at Freetown from Trinidad p.m. 19. (v) Convoy SL 44 of about 26 ships escorted by CANTON sails from Freetown none plus one 18. Route. (C. in C., S.A. 1200/17)

Mediterranean

Bombardment by Fleet	Capuzzo and Bardia and military objectives in vicinity bombarded 0700 to 0725/17 by WARSPITE, MALAYA, RAMILLIES and KENT. Air spotting reports many salvos in target areas. Fleet withdrawing to Egyptian Coast where R.A.F. provides fighter patrol. Fleet heavily but inaccurately bombed between 1030 and 1100. 11 or 12 enemy aircraft shot down by fighters over fleet. (F.O. 1st B.S., 1524/17 C. in C., Med., 2136/17)
Alexandria	Movements summary No 143 (C.O.I.S. Alexandria 1300/17)
HATS	Certain details. VALIANT's time of arrival (C. in C., Med., 1355/17) See Mediterranean Volume)
Air Raid Alexandria 15/6.	Reply to 2359/16 (D.M.S. 1425/17) Air Raid on Alexandria harbour night of 15/6 included 3 low flying aircraft at least 2 of which dropped either magnetic mines or torpedoes. One of these aircraft subsequently force landed at Sidi Barrani crew of 5 captured after burning machine.

/2.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.3.1940.
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Air Raid, Alexandria, Contd.

3. Anti magnetic minesweep of area carried out with limited resources available but R.A. Alexandria reports no response.

3. Admty. 0047/15: difficulties are appreciated but I have been asking for balloons for Alexandria for (? over a) year. Request this requirement may now be urgently pressed on with. Small balloons to fly at 1000 to 2000 feet from breakwater would make fleet anchorage reasonably secure from low flying attacks which I regard as very serious menace.

4. Should like to have some of the kites mentioned to try out here.

(C. in C., Med., 1431/17 to Admty.)

OSIRIS
FAATHIAM

Orders (Capt. (S) 1 1607/17)

OLTANIA
STEAUA ROMANA
CAMPINA

Manager of Steaua Romana requests that in the event of war with Italy following tankers flying Roumania flag on run from Marseilles Tripoli should be detained in, or ordered to French ports. OLTANIA (19800 tons) STEAUA ROMANA (700 tons) CAMPINA 4000 tons) (N.A. Bucharest 1700/16 to C. in C., Med.)

Submarines

A.C.N.S. (F) 1709/17 (See Mediterranean Volume)

M.T.Ships

Admty. 2316/14, 0255/13, Group 1 DUCHESS OF BEDFORD, WAIOTIRA, DENBIGHSHIRE, escort York will be known as AP I., Group 11 SYDNEY STAR escort AJAX will be known as AP 11 (D.O.D. (F) 1914/17)

V.A.Tovey

Your 1307/15. To be known as either V.A.(D) or V.A.Light forces as you may select. Otherwise proposals in your 1631/10 are approved. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1947/17)

Enemy Mine

My 1431/17. Description of tail section and request whether fittings can be identified. (C. in C., Med. 1815/17)

/Greek.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.8.1940.
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean, Contd.

Greek Precautions

Old A/S Boom being laid roughly 110° from Cape Acrinios on Psyttaleia Island. All Greek men of war are recalled and will be at Salamis by tonight except ARES Cruising inside Euboea. Tail of exploded torpedo has been found off Tinuvy and is Italian but this is not going to be announced. First torpedo struck HELLE there. After 15 minutes two hit low new Mole and rock presumably fired from westward at two ships berthed in small harbour. Small Greek ships plying to Islands are carrying on without convoy. (N.A. Athens, 1900/17)

Air

Bardia Operation

Operational summary 69. Egypt, 17/8. Units of Med. Fleet bombarded Bardia (Operation B.2) from 0700 to 0730, then withdrew eastwards according to plan along coast under fighter escort. All our available fighter squadrons had previously been located on landing grounds along coast. 0905, one Cant 501 flying boat A shadowing fleet shot down in flames. 1030, formations of S.79's attacked fleet, engaged by Gladiators 80 Sqdn. 2 enemy aircraft later observed in the sea. 1045, 25 S. 79's attacked fleet. On interception by fighters jettisoned part of their bombs One Hurricane 274 Sqdn shot down 2 S.79's in flames and pursued a third for 40 miles until it broke up. 80 Sqdn. detachment shot down one S.79 plus another unconfirmed One S 79 captured intact with crew after forced landing near Sidi Barrani. Gladiators F.A.A. shot down one S.79 in flames and another unconfirmed. All our aircraft returned safely. 3 submarines reported off Mersa Matruk. Blenheims 43 Sqdn. sent to attack but failed to locate. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 1808/18)

Contact

Air combat at sea off Libya 1045 to 1110/17 3 Gladiators (EAGLE) and 10 Savoia S.79's. 1 down in flames, 1 down out of control (EAGLE 1006/18)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.8.1940.
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

YOLANDE BERTIN
HORTENSIA BERTIN

N.O.I.C. Calcutta's 0634/16. Asking position re transfer of these French ships to British Flag. (C. in C., E.I. 08122/17)

French Attitude

Extract from Consul Djbuti telegram 67 to F.O. regarding Armistice commission. "I am told that French hopes of outcome of sittings were realized impression so far as British interests are concerned there is no cause for disquiet. "Impression" is a doubtful group. (C. in C., E.I. 16447/17)

ROYAL SOVEREIGN

(At Aden) Has all boilers out of action (S.N.O. Red Sea 0926/17, C. in C., E.I. 14363/17) Inform C. in C., S.A. and N.O.I.C. Simonstown of delay in arrival of ROYAL SOVEREIGN at Durban (D.O.D. (F) 1224/18)

Somaliland

Evacuation. Progress report up to 1900 (? G.M.T.) 16/8. CHAKDINA sailed Aden with 1100 including 200 to 300 Abyssinian women and children. All wounded embarked in British Naval Hospital ship VITA but more arriving. Ammunition and certain valuable stores are being embarked night 16/17/8. Governor and staff arrived Aden in KIMBERLEY 1900 G.M.T. 16/8. (C. in C., E.I. 0510/17)

CERES Operating on Coast

Somaliland coast operation. CERES engaged possible enemy post Biyo Fogo in forenoon and at Bulhar before dusk. Result not known. CERES is investigating in this vicinity throughout night 17/18. (C. in C E.I. 19002/17)

NEPTUNE

C. in C., E.I. 1946/2/16 See Operations Volume.

CITY OF BAGDAD

C. in C., E.I. 1726/18/1, S.O.(1) Singapore 0809/18/7. Is CITY OF BAGDAD now presumed lost (C. in C., E.I. 05382/17)

/Somaliland Evacuations..

MOST SECRET

17.8.1940.
Saturday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies. Contd.

Somaliland Evacuation

Military situation at the front critical. General retreat throughout night irrespective of weather. General staff embarking in HOBART at 1900Z front line communications have practically broken down. All cyphers special ammunition and two three inch H.A. guns embarked. Improbable other material can be got away. Owing to bridge having been demolished speed of evacuation very much retarded. Position too obscure to say when evacuation will be completed. Intend sailing CHANTALA and AKBAR before daylight. Each will have approximately 1,800. (S.N.O. Berbera 2321/17)

China

Indo China

B.L.O. Saigon reports no immediate danger of Japanese attack Indo China.(C. in C., China 0301/17)

America & West Indies

DIOMEDE

C. in C., A.W.I. 1832/16 and S.N.O. Trinidad 1016/16. DIOMEDE's Patrol deferred until completion of degaussing (C. in C., A.W.I., 1032/17)

BROOMDALE

Your 1133/17 (asking for news) No news of oiler BROOMDALE since my 1613/9 and S.N.O.'s 1856/10. to C. in C., A.W.I. (N.C.S.O. Trinidad 1750/17)

Australia

Mines

Suspicious objects, possibly mines, were sighted off Sydney, Australia today. The port has been closed temporarily. (D.O.R. 346) Sighted by British ship PERIOD in 34° 06' S., 151° 34' 30" E., (A.C.N.B. 1207Z/17)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.8.1940.
Saturday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

ARKADIA
MOLTKE

Arrived from Russia (Macroe Galati 1050/17)

KEHRIEL

C.I. Germans have been buying Distilled water locally. About 3 weeks ago 50 litres bought for KEHRIEL.

NORD ATLANTIC

C.O. NORDMEER said to have arrived at Havre Master to return to Vigo August 22nd to take charge of NORD ATLANTIC. There is talk about USARAMO sailing but no definite indication except some coal said to have been taken.

USARAMO

(Vigo T.H.I. 1000/17)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

ISEO

Split reports ISEO arrived Dubrovnic 15/8. due to sail for Venice 16/8. with 5000 tons of copper plate. (S.O. (1) Alexandria 1037/17)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.8.1940.
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

1500 — LLANDILO believed sighted submarine 58.03 N., 24.18 W., at 1400 G.M.T. (Lands End Radio 1509/17)

1617 — Unknown unit probably German submarine by D.F. 305° Gibraltar (F.O.C. N.A. 1848/17)

1717 — Approx 45° N., 20° W., by D.F. Very indefinite (D.D.I.C. 2128/17)

2210 — By D.F. 51° 30' N., 10° 30' W., Unreliable fix. (D.N.I. 2302/17)
Aircraft searhed area 15 mile radius from 51° 2' N., 6° 5' W., objective not seen. (A.H.Q.M. Plymouth 1920/17)

2122 — 56° 10' N., 10° 30' W., Position very indefinite (D.S. 348)

Estimated Dispositions — The U Boat east of Azores on 13th is now known to have been Italian but has not since been reported.
1 Western Approaches
1 Outward bound through N.W. Approaches, was still as far north as 56° 50' N., 17° 40' W. at 1837/16.
1 between 54° 30' N., and 56° 30' N., and between 11° W. and 14° W.
1 within 60 or 70 miles of Bloody Foreland probably to Northwestward.
2 others in N.W. Approaches one of which is probably now west of Rockall homeward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1353/17)

Submarines Attacked

0620 — By trawler VICTRIX 55.46 N., 07.56 W., oil surfacing in large quantities at 0725 (N.O.I.C. Belfast 0810/17) ARROW and other units ordered to position (Capt. A/S Belfast, 0926/17) PAYNTER, PENTLAND FIRTH ANGLE and MAN OF WAR ordered to 55.40 N., 13.30 W., to search. Sunderland co-operating (Capt. A/S Belfast 1229/17) Target dead VICTRIX remaining until daylight 18/8 remainder proceeding (ARROW 1321/17) Possibly wreck of SS BOMA (D.D.I.C. 1609/17)

1620 — Attacked contact position 055° 03' N 017° 48' W., at 1630. Three patterns fired. BLUEBELL in company. Asdic contact only, continuing search the area. (GLEANER 1731/17)

19.8.40.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

AGUILA escaped — (see also North Atlantic. Apparently erroneously reported shelled by raider). Re. submarine attack no damage or casualties sustained. Submarine probably Italian ARCHIMEDE type. Range 8000 to 9000 visibility hazy. Action broken off by enemy. (Las Palmas 1950/20).

Submarines Reported

0141 — ARROW, ANTHONY and ACHATES ordered to position 56°00' N., 10°48' W., where ship has been torpedoed. Air cooperation at dawn will be provided, weather permitting. (Capt. A/5 Belfast, 0141/19).

1000 — Aircraft report 54°45' N., 5°40' W. (D.D.I.C., 1713/19, 1930/19).

0210 and 0215 — 56°57' N., 22°24' W., position indefinite. (D.S. 346).

0208 — 54°40' N., 5°39' W., U/B reported 1 m. from Black Head on line to Orloch Hill, Belfast Lough. (C.3) (D.S. 346).

North Atlantic

2000 G.M.T. 18/8 — Submarine position 37°38' N., 25°15' W., 2000 G.M.T., 18/8. (A.1). Information from Captain of Port. (N.C.S.O., Ponta del Gada, 1240/19, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 2129/19).

1945/18 — Off Ponta Garajan, Saint Michael's, submarine surfaced 1945/18, dived 2035. Source A.O. (Consul, Lisbon, 1937/19).

Estimated dispositions

1 in about 40° N. 20°20'W. at 1913/18.
At least 1 was still in W.A. on 18th.
1 reaching W.A. from the N. and probably far out
3 in N.W. approaches.
1 in about 57° N., 19° W. at 0215/19).
1 N. of Shetlands homeward bound.
Possibly 1 near N. Rona outward bound.
(D.D.I.C. 1515/19).

1

War Diary

MOST SECRET

18.8.40.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

One M.T.B. from Ramsgate reconnoitred the Belgian coast last night.

Two more ships were torpedoed today in the N.W. Approaches and news was received of the torpedoing of another ship on 14/8 in the same area.

The French Govt. has agreed to release Allied and Neutral vessels on French time charter which have been detained in French ports.

British Air Activity

Air Losses — The Air Ministry's estimate of enemy losses since the commencement of intensive air attacks on this country on 8/8 is 501 aircraft destroyed, 231 others probably destroyed, and 194 damaged. The R.A.F. lost 142 aircraft, but only 86 pilots.

Mining — 4 Hampdens laid mines last night in the Elbe Estuary .

Raid on Boulogne — 7 out of 11 Battles last night attacked 18 E-boats which were seen in Boulogne harbour yesterday by air reconnaissance, and dropped bombs in the area. Photographic R.V. of the French coast today showed considerable activity at Boulogne harbour.

Vlaardingen — One out of 8 Blenheims detailed attacked fuel depot and barges at Vlaardingen. Searchlights prevented observation of results.

Attack on armed trawlers — An aircraft on patrol attacked 9 armed trawlers this evening, 50 miles N. of Borkum. After the attack, only 8 trawlers could be seen.

Air escort was provided for 22 convoys.

War Diary

MOST SECRET

18.8.40.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

Enemy aircraft renewed the attack on the U.K. about midnight 17/18 Aug., the main objectives being aerodromes. One raid reached Liverpool shortly after midnight and did considerable damage to Queen's No. 1 graving dock.

Three ships were attacked off Rosslare this morning: ST. PATRICK (Fishguard/Rosslare S.S.) was bombed and machine gunned in Irish territorial waters and had two men slightly wounded, both of whom, however, died of gangrene and there is evidence that copper bullets were used. BIFROST (Swedish 1781 tons) was unsuccessfully attacked; and YEWKYLE (British 824 tons) was seriously damaged and was towed to Milford Haven.

There was a raid on the Portsmouth area in the afternoon. No Naval damage is reported. Some damage was done to the F.A.A. aerodrome at Ford. Slight damage was caused to the R.M. Barracks, Deal through an attack by 21 enemy aircraft at 1802. Bombs dropped at Dover shortly before midnight 18/19 did no damage.

R.A.F. fighters and bombers today destroyed 129 enemy aircraft, together with 26 probable and 45 damaged. A.A. destroyed 13. R.A.F. lost 24 aircraft, of which the pilots of 12 are safe; this does not include aircraft destroyed on the ground.

Mining.

Operation S.N.12 Mines were laid last night off Duncansby Head by the 1st M/L Sqn. escorted by 5 destroyers.

Mines were detonated off Harwich and Penzance. Milford Haven was opened during the day time; no mines were detonated today.

War Diary

MOST SECRET

18.8.40.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT

Foreign Stations

Somaliland Evacuation

At 0600Z today all forces were embarked with the exception of one platoon 2nd K.A.R. The main body sailed for Aden at 1100Z. Heavy losses are believed to have been inflicted on the enemy, who did not follow up. All A.A. guns saved; HOBART's demolition parties operated ashore, destroying motor transport, petrol, and S.A.A. dumps. The tug QUEEN sank during the embarkation. SHOREHAM and DERBY remained with HOBART to effect final withdrawal of guns and small craft. KANDAHAR and CALEDON co-operated by bombardment. R.A.F. carried out patrols over Berbera, to cover the evacuation, and harassed enemy concentrations.

HOBART was unsuccessfully bombed at 1315Z at Berbera.

Force H.

ARK ROYAL, ENTERPRISE and 5 destroyers met RENOWN in the Atlantic today, to accompany her to Gibraltar.

1

War Diary

MOST SECRET

18.8.40.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Nore Command — Air R/C incomplete. Cruisers, Destroyers, and Corvettes keep steam at half an hours notice till 0900 (C.-in-C., Nore 0421/18)

Portsmouth Balloon Barrage — Ref. Balloon Cd. A.941/17/8. Six Balloons may be re-deployed forthwith if you can supply the Craft. (Air Ministry 1557/18 to Adty.)

Scapa Defences — Progress Report 18/8. (R.A.Scapa 1507/18 to Adty.)

Policy

Adty. Message A.F. — Your 1727/17/8. Fully concur (C.-in-C., Nore 1011/18 to Adty.) Suggest period should be 24 hours from when U-Boat was known to be in that position. (C.-in-C., Rosyth 1101/18 to Adty.)

Movements

Nore Command — Night Dispositions 18/19. (C.-in-C., Nore 0800/18)

SUNDERLAND — My 2038/17. Should arrive on patrol about 1100. (C.-in-C., Rosyth 0810/18 to NAIAD)

NORTHERN DAWN / ARCTIC EXPLORER — Trawlers. Patrol in 56° N. between 9° W. and 11° W. (Capt.A/S Belfast 0840/18)

Patrol O — My 0925/17. Patrol O to be carried out tonight, Sunday, instead of Patrol T. (C.-in-C., Nore 1027/18 to D.16) (C.-in-C., Nore 1345/18 to WINCHESTER)

Fleet Tenders — My 1656/14. Anticipated that Fleet Tenders A, B, and C, will be ready for sea not later than 3rd September. (C.-in-C., H.F. 1139/18 to Adty.)

Western Approaches Destroyers — Your 0059/17. Consideration already being given to reinforcing your Command. V.C.N.S. 1255/18 to C.-in-C., W.A.)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

18.8.40.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements (Contd.)

Belfast A/S Striking Force	Strongly recommend that 9th D.F. and WANDERER and WITCH should be based on Bangor during Operation, and that Capt.D.9 should normally berth in TITANIA. 12th D.F. remain at Greenock, and that Sunderland Aircraft now based at Oban and Stranraer Aircraft at Oban be transferred to Loch Neagl, close to Aldergrove. (Capt. A/S, Belfast 1455/18 to C.-in-C.,W.A.
Portsmouth	Night Movement Signal. (C.-in-C., Portsmouth 1623/18)
Orkneys	Movements for Night 18/19. (A.C.O.S.1647/18)
ANTHONY	R/V. in 55° 20' N., 8° 20' W. (Capt. A/S Belfast 1725/18 to ANTHONY)
HARVESTER	Proceed to 55° 20' N., 8° 20' W. (Capt. A/S 1730/18 to HARVESTER)
DOVER	Patrols for Night 18/19. (V.A. Dover 1748/18)
HARWICH	Night Dispositions, and Movements to 1200/19 (N.O.I.C., Harwich 1849/18)

Operations

Operation PN.	(M.T.B. Sweep off Maas and Schaldt). Cancel my 1506/12 and substitute as follows. M.T.B's reach Thornton Ridge Whistle Buoy 110 5 miles by 2230/18 and sweep N.E. through Middle Diep being 25 miles clear of Coast by first light. Orders as to reporting any invading Force met before attacking. Operation to be carried out tonight. (C.-in-C., Nore 1300/18 to S.O. M.T.B's Felixstowe)
Convoy MP. (R.M. Brigades)	Fighter protection being provided by Fighter Command and Escort by Coastal Command. (Air Ministry 2300/18 to Adty.) Four Liners sail Liverpool to Scapa 19/8. Code word DELTA. Close Aircraft Escort to be provided during day through North Channel. (H.Q.F.C. 2345/18 to 13 Group.) (H.Q.F.C. 2322/18 to Air Ministry.)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

18.8.40.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations (Contd.)

Possible Special Atlantic Operation

Your 1933/2. Intend sail NORFOLK and AUSTRALIA P.M./19th to raid Bear Island Fishing Grounds. (C.-in-C., H.F. 1941/18 to Adty.) Your 1941/18. Two 8" Cruisers from Home Fleet of which one would be DEVONSHIRE may be required in near future for a special Operation in Atlantic lasting about one month. So not considered justifiable to send two 8" Cruisers to raid Bear Island Fishing Grounds at present. (V.C.N.S. 2306/18 to C.-in-C., H.F.) Cancel my 1941/18 (C.-in-C., H.F.1141/19 to Adty.)

Operation HATS

VALIANT. Route to Gibraltar (C.-in-C.,W.A. 2032/18)
COVENTRY and CALCUTTA, route from Clyde. Route for ships to Freetown (C.-in-C.,W.A. 1844/18 and 2032/18)

Submarines

CACHALOT

Patrolling off West Coast of France. (C.-in-C., W.A.1645/18 to Adty.)

Positions

For following 24 hours at 0600/19 in Area A. (V.A.S.1654/18) In Area B. (V.A.S. 1656/18)

E-Boats

Dartmouth reports noise of motor-driven Craft 100° Compass Point at 0110. (C.-in-C.,W.A. 0126/18 to WITHERINGTON)

Armed small Craft bearing 320° 4 miles from 55° 8' N., 6° 28' E. course 200. Aircraft report. (Donibristle 0755/18 to Adty.)

British Air Activity

There will be no Aircraft Patrols in Channel West of Portland tonight. (C.-in-C., W.A.,2011/18 to WITHERINGTON)

Enemy Air Activity

Lee-on-Solent Air-Raid

Lessons learnt from. (R.A.N.A.S. 1154/18 to Naval Air Stations)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

18.8.40.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity (Contd.)

Lee-on-Solent	Enemy Attack. No damage or casualties. (Lee 1542/18 to C.-in-C., Portsmouth) (R.A.N.A.S. 1654/18 to Adty.)
Ford	11 Dive Bombers attacked. Many fires. (Ford 1440/18 to C.-in-C., Portsmouth) (R.A.N.A.S. 1653/18 to Adty.) Attacked by 30 to 50 Dive Bombers. Estimate 3 Naval and 1 Army Officers killed, 4 Naval and 4 Army Ratings killed, 4 Civilians and 1 Woman killed and 33 wounded. 2 Hangars and about 1/3rd of Men's Living Huts destroyed and other Buildings much damaged. (R.A.N.A.S. 1820/18 to Adty.)
Gosport	Aerodrome unserviceable. (Air Ministry 1655/18).
Deal	Attacked at 1820/18 by 21 Junkers 86 flying South towards Dover with H.E. and Incendiary Bombs. One Store-Room demolished and many windows broken. (Marine Deal 2030/18 to Adty.) Details. No damage to Service Personnel (Sept. C.E. Chatham Dkyd. 1420/19)
	Aircraft reports a Norwegian Ship bombed at Noon in 56° N., 11° W. Damaged but not sunk, and returning to port. (A.C.H.Q. Plymouth 2148/18 to HQ.15)
Swansea Air-Raid	Air Raid 17/18. About 30 Bombs in Area, 3 unexploded. Houses damaged. One death of shock. (F.O.I.C.Cardiff 1500/18 to C.-in-C.,W.A.)
VALERIA	British S. Tr. sunk by 3 Aircraft by bomb, torpedo and gunfire 1415/18 Smalls Lighthouse 035° 8 miles (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1215/19)
SVEIN JARL	Norwegian (1908 tons) straggler from an outward-bound convoy was attacked and damaged by an enemy Aircraft P.M./18 off Bloody Foreland (D.S.350)
CELEROL	British Tanker, 2649 tons, attacked at 1640/18 by some 20 Aircraft N.E. of the Shingles Buoy (D.S.349)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

18.8.40.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

S.N.12 — Operation completed (R.A.M.0249/18 to Adty.)

Firth of Forth — Area 3 miles round 56° 4' 18" N., 1° 58' W., considered dangerous owing to Mines. Request QZX. (C.-in-C., Rosyth 0919/18 to Adty.) Reference XDO Tyne's 0750/18 (Mine picked up by s.s. EARL OF BUCHAN). Arrange search of area by Paddle Minesweepers tomorrow 19/8. (C.-in-C., Rosyth 1033/18 to Commander M/S Granton). Request Fighter protection if required (C.-in-C., Rosyth 1224/18 to H.Q.F.C.) Paddle M/S QUEEN OF KENT and PLINLIMMON will reach Area about 0900 and should complete about 1730/19. (Comdr. M/S Granton 1545/18 to C.-in-C., Rosyth).

Milford Haven — Port is open (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1051/18 to Adty.) No Mines detonated to-day. Port will be closed after Convoy sails this evening until 1100/19. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1849/18 to Adty.)

Harwich — One Magnetic Mine detonated by LL. Sweep at 1035/18 in 51° 50' N., 1° 28' E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1409/18 to Adty.)

Falmouth — At 1100/18, two Red Mines exploded at 098° Pennance Point 2½ and 3 cables respectively. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1710/18 to Adty.)

Enemy Intelligence

7 M.V.'s — 7 M.V's bearing 100° 4 miles from 56° 10' N., 5° 50' E., course 190°.Aircraft report. (220 Sqdn. 0749/18)

Small Craft — At 0736/18 six Fishing Vessels not fishing and each with W/T aerial and Danish flags and markings, course 340°, speed 6 knots, at 55° 40' N., 6° E., and one other similar Vessel at 0744/18 at 55° 42' N., 6° 22' E. Aircraft report. (Donbristle 1225/18 to Adty.)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

18.8.40.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence (Contd.)

Boulogne M.T.Vehicles — Aircraft R.C. 18/8 shows some 200 M.T. Vehicles recently arrived and in motion between Boulogne and Andresselles. This figure does not include any vehicles in Boulogne itself (P.I.U. 0620/19). It is estimated that some 1,000 vehicles are in Boulogne and area (C.I.C. Report No.82)

Shipping

Convoys

OA. 200	Passing Cape Wrath 0430 (CAMELIA 0430/18) Route (A.C.W.A. 1731/18)
OB. 200	Destination list. (N.C.S.O., Liverpool 1155/18)
OB. 199	ARROW, ACHATES and ANTHONY to join as far as 13° W. (Capt.A/S Belfast 0933/18)
OA. 201	Sailed for Clyde. (N.C.S.O.,Methil 1702/18) Escort (C-in-C., Rosyth 1916/18)
HX. 63A) WN. 8)	Escorted by KEITH and HIBISCUS and trawlers. (C.-in-C., Rosyth 1916/18)
HX. 64	Route (C.-in-C.,W.A. 1739/18)
AP. 1) AP. 2)	Difficulties (War Office) in loading tanks. Firm decision whether sailing will be delayed is required by 1600 tomorrow. (D.O.D.(H) to F.O.I.C. Liverpool. 1849/18)
HX. 67	LACONIA to escort (F.O. 3 B.S. 1109/18)
SL. 44	Sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1447/18)
HG. 42	Destination list. (F.O.C.N.A. 1245/18)

AMERICAN LEGION — (U.S. troop ship). Convoy American passengers Petsamo. Possibly Germany unable advise submarines. (Preston Pearce, Plymouth to Admty. 0745/18). Left Petsamo 16/8. Route. Not to be closed so that enemy can have no claim she is being convoyed. (C.-in-C.,H.F. 1717/18)

FN. and FS. Convoys — Your 1556/12, re breaking of W/T silence by FN. and FS. Convoys, approved. (D.O.D.(H) to C.-in-C., Rosyth 1117/18).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

18.8.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping (Contd.)

Convoy Escorts, Belfast. In view of recent sinkings decided that the Belfast trawler force must be employed as originally intended. Second division as additional escorts for ocean convoys, one unit joining each OB Convoy at Clyde rendezvous, the first unit joining OB.202 in position 360 Alta carry 7 miles at 1115/23. Trawlers to remain with convoy for one day after the normal escort leaves in about 17° W. At dark after dispersal of convoy trawlers are to proceed to meet the next higher numbered OA convoy in about 15° W. After covering one OB and one OA convoy unit to meet the next incoming convoy HX,S1 or HG as far out as practicable excorting B portion when convoy splits parting company off Belfast and returning to harbour. Third division will be used for A/S patrols and escorts for single ships etc. (C. in C., W.A. 1646/18)

Vessels in France French Govt. has agreed to release allied and neutral vessels on French time charter which have been detained in French ports. Vessels concerned should be sailing during the course of the next few days and will probably be ordered to proceed to the nearest British port. The necessary quid pro quo having already been made there is no question of releasing any French ships held by us in return. (D.T.D. 1953/18).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

18.8.40.
Sunday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

LERWICK — British (5626 tons) Tees 13/7 for Takoradi, overdue since 8/8 (D.S. 348).

THORSHOLM — Norwegian tanker (9937 tons) Abadan 19/7 overdue since 10/8 at Table Bay (D.S.348). Arrived Table Bay 17/8 (D.S. 350).

TALLEYRAND — Norwegian (6732 tons) Fremantle 25/7 overdue since 10/8 at Talle Bay (D.S. 348).

KINDAT — British. My 1118/10. Passed all well by CITY OF ROUBAIX+ at 28° S. 46°30' E. on 10/8. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1048/18 to Adty.)

CHR. TH. ROE — Norwegian Tanker, 6192 tons. Abadan for Capetown, overdue since 14/8. (S.O.I. Capetown 1128/18 to Adty.)

BRITISH COMMANDER — British tanker, 6901 tons. Left Falmouth 14/7 for Abadan. Not reported at Cape of Good Hope. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1128/18 to Adty.)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

18.8.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

CUMBERLAND — Repairs complete 21/8. Request sailing orders. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1043/18).

KINDAT — My 1118/10, overdue shipping. CITY OF ROUBAIX on arrival Capetown reports passing KINDAT on 10/8, 28.00 S., 46.30 E., all well. (S.O. I. Capetown, 1048/18).

CHR. TH. BOE — Norwegian due Capetown 14/8 from Abadan not arrived.

BRITISH COMMANDER — British, left Falmouth 14/7 for Abadan, not reported at Cape. (S.O.I., Capetown, 1128/18).

Fast Convoys — Intended to recommence sailing fast convoys two days after slow convoys provided no further casualties occur to armed merchant cruisers. Intention is that the two convoys will meet off Azores, that one A.M.C. will continue as escort to combined convoys and that other A.M.C. shall return to Freetown. Arrangements will be made for A.M.C.s to make alternate trips to U.K. and Azores and for all boiler cleaning and overhauling machinery of motor vessels to be carried out during visit to U.K. This routine will commence with S.L. 45 and S.L.F. 45. (C. in C., S.A. 1008/18).

French Guns — Reply from HERMES to 1156/13, request for position of guns between Cape Vert and Almadi Point. (N.O.I.C., Simonstown, 1122/18).

French Repatriation — Ref. our 2245/17, repatriation of certain Frenchmen in W. Africa. Cancel last para. meantime. (War Office to G.O.C., W.A., 1440/18).

Troop Transports — Re movements of NEW COLUMBIA and ASKA (C. in C., S.A., 1100/18).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

18.8.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Turkish Boom Defences	Proposals re C. in C., Med. 1545/8. (D.B.D., 1050/18). See Mediterranean Volume).
PROVIDENCE	French transport, believed to have left Beirut for Toulon. Probably has French flag painted on sides which might easily be mistaken for Italian. Submarines not to attack. (Capt. (S) I, 1430/18).
WOOLWICH	To proceed Alexandria via Cape. (D.D.O.D.(H) 1431/18).
ATHOS	French transport, recently in Alexandria, leaves Beirut 19/8 for Bizerta via Straits of Messina. Submarines not to attack. (Capt.(S)I, 2111/18).
Patrols	Fleet Air Arm aircraft made anti-submarine patrols between Mersa Matruh and Barrani from 2300/17 to 0330/18. Night of 17/18, one Bombay 216 Sqdn. despatched to attack military targets Derna owing to bad weather. Alternative targets Tobruk covered with fog. Bombay returned to base with bombs. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., Operational Summary No.69, 1808/18).

East Indies

Convoys	
BN.4	Leaves Bombay, route. (F.O., R.I.N., 0432Z/18)
U.S.4.	W.O. asking C. in C., India to accommodate ashore troops ex U.S.4 until sailing of B.N.7. Request you consider making similar representations. (D.O.D.(F) to C. in C., E.I., 1223/18 Done. (C. in C., E.I., 1842/18).
B.S.3	Left with CLIVE, 1050Z/18. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 1404Z/18). Route (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1419/8).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

18.8.40.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies (Contd.)

ROYAL SOVEREIGN	Request to inform C. in C., S.A. and N.O.I.C. Simonstown of anticipated delay in arrival at Durban. (D.O.D.(F) to C. in C. E.I. 1224/18, respecting his 1436Z/17).
Berbera	Situation at 0600Z/18. Forces embarked complete less one platoon 2nd K.A.R. Enemy has not followed up, so hoped to salve all A/A guns remaining and other stores. Troops proceed to Aden about noon but HOBART remaining in hope of rescuing outlying detachments of Camel Corps. Thanks of G.O.C. (C. in C., E.I., 1248/18).
	Evacuation complete except for possibly 50 who have not yet reached Berbera. Total number embarked approx. 6000. 2 A/A guns and one Bren carrier embarked leaving 2 A/A guns, 3 Bren carriers and 2 Bofors still ashore. Attemtp being made to embark these tonight. HOBART's demolition parties operating ashore. Intend HOBART to sail am/19 after bombardment of Berbera. Expected all stragglers will have embarked by then. (S.N.O. Berbera, 1532Z/18).
HOBART KANDAHAR, CALEDON, SHOREHAM, DERBY.	My 1248/18. 3 a/c attacked HOBART at Berbera 1315Z/18. 8 bombs, nearest 15 yards many splinters, no damage or casualties. Main body of troops sailed for Aden 1100Z. KANDAHAR and CALEDON bombarded Bulhar-Berbera Roads. HOBART, SHOREHAM, and DERBY remained at Berbera to effect final withdrawal of guns and small craft. (C. in C., E.I., 1802Z/18). Thanks to Red Sea and Aden Forces. (C. in C., E.I., 1848Z/18).
	All 3" guns Bren Carriers and Bofors guns embarked. All lighters except two which are ready for removal by PROTECTOR have sailed. Practically all motor transports all petrol and small arms ammunition demps destroyed. Shaab and pontoons piers fired and one unseaworthy lighter scuttled. Tug QUEEN sank during embarkation. A small number missing, and wounded have been embarked. (HOBART, 2123/18).
Air Riad	3 Aircraft attacked HOBART at Berbera 18/8 dropping 8 bombs. No casualties, no damage.

War Diary

MOST SECRET

18.8.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

ARAWA, U.S.4 — ARAWA is to provide ocean escort as far as Freetown for a liner carrying New Zealand Forestry Unit and a detachment of Australian troops to U.K. Liner first selected was ORCADES, due to sail in convoy U.S.4 from Fremantle on 1/9, ARAWA to escort her from Bombay. Owing to uncertainty as to final date of sailing of U.S.4, position is no longer clear, and possible ARAWA may be required to commence escort duty at Fremantle. ARAWA should therefore await further instructions at Singapore. (D.O.D.(F) 1843/18 to C. in C., China).

America & West Indies

LACONIA — Ocean escort for HX.67, sailing 20/8 and returning to Halifax. (F.O. 3 B.S. 1109/18).

Australia & New Zealand

U.S.4 — C.G.S., Wellington has received telegram from W.O., London, sailing date for U.S.4. postponed. Request confirmation. (N.Z.N.B. 0231Z/18). Thought delay may be connected with refit of CANBERRA. Not now anticipated this will delay sailing. (A.C.N.B. 0820Z/18). Postponement due to shipping situation reported in P.S.T.O. Bombay 1333/15. Matter is under urgent consideration by London and India. (D.O.D.(F) 1831/18).

NIEW HOLLAND — Dutch. Your 2142/10. Unrest and possibility of refusal to sail amongst Chinese and Japanese crew. Request whether new crew could if necessary be shipped to Colombo in time to take over during passage of U.S.5. (A.C.N.B. 0441Z/18 to D. of S.T.).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

18.8.40.
Sunday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

HUGO STINNES — Arrived here 17/8 with bow seriously damaged by mine. (Consul, Gottenburg, 1450/18).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

UMBRIA — Enquiries reaching Port Sudan from India consignees concerning their cargoes.
May they be informed she scuttled herself in Red Sea? (C. in C., E.I., 0700Z/18).
No objection. (D.D.I.C. 1209/19).

MAYA — Leaving for Batoum in ballast, 18/8 (Vice Consul Varna 1104/17).

TORCELLO — Arrived 17/8 from Batoum (Vice Consul Varna, 1104/17).

GIUSEPPINA GHIRARDI — Expected to sail for Italy in a day or two. (Vice Consul, Varna, 1104/17 recd. from D. of S.T., 1452/19).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

18.8.40.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

BETTY — Reporting sunk at 2130/14 (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1815/18). see 14/8. 55.9 N., 9.14 W. (D.S. 349).

AMPLEFORTH sunk — British (4576 tons) torpedoed 2355/18, 56.00 N., 10.48 W. (Malin Head Radio, 0112/19). Have 21 survivors. One other boat with 4 survivors missing. My position 56.08 N., 12.18 W. (WARWICK, 0405/19). Send tug to AMPLEFORTH in 56° N., 10.48 W. at 0100/19. (C. in C., W.A. to F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1009/19). Outward bound in ballast. Had straggled from convoy. (D.O.R. 19/8). Asking if seen to sink. (C. in C., W.A. to WALKER, 2002/19).
Your 2002. Area well searched after daylight. Small amount of wreckage. One empty boat, nothing else. (ARROW, 2116/19). Your 2247 (repetition of 2002). Ship sank almost immediately. (WARWICK, 0004/20).

Unknown ship, probably Belgian VILLE DE GAND — S.O.S., ONVF (call sign unknown). (Valentia Radio, 2220/18). SSSS, position 55.28 N., 15.10 W. torpedoed, now in boats. (Wick Radio, 2242/18). HARVESTER ordered to position. (C. in C., W.A., 0016/19) (D.S. 349).

CIRCASSIA — Attacked by s/m. 255°, 40° N., 20° W., 120, at 1913/18. (see s/ms attacked).

Submarines Reported

0321 — D.F., 58.20 N., 1° E., 067° Kinnaird Head, position indefinite (D.N.I., 0355/18).

0125 — 60 to 80 miles N.W. of Butt of Lewis, very indefinite (D.S. 348).

0309 — 57° to 59° N., 16° to 20° W., very indefinite. (D.S. 348).

0334 — Possible U/b reported in 52.39 N., 2.00 E. at 0334. (C. in C., Nore, 0551/18).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

18.8.40.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported (Contd.)

2020	Unknown submarine 56.28 N., 11.00 W., 19.20 G.M.T. (DORSET, to F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2005/18).
2345	Attack enemy submarine reported in 55.28 N., 15.10 W., reliable fix. at 2345/18. (C. in C., W.A., 0016/19 to HARVESTER).
1045	49.20 N., 10° W., 187° Fastnet 128'. Position indefinite (D.S. 349).

America and West Indies

2100 G.M.T.	Large s/m sighted 2100 G.M.T. 18/8 in 38.15 N., 36.00 W. S/m on surface but as plane approached submerged leaving slight wake then stopped. Source U.S. airmen (B.1). (C. in C., A.W.I., 0703/19).
Estimated dispositions	1 in about 45° N. 200° W. at 1717/17 course unknown. 1 S.W. of Ireland possibly northwards bound from Lorient. 1 W. of Ireland probably far out and outward bound. 3 in N.W. Approaches. 1 N.W. of Rockall homeward bound. 1 60 to 80 miles N.W. of Butt of Lewis at 0125/18 homeward bound. 1 in about 58°20' N. 1° E. at 0321/18 may be outward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1355/18 amended 1804/18).

Submarines Attacked

1913	By CIRCASSIA with depth charges, position 255° 40° N., 20° W., 120. (CIRCASSIA, 1913/18). 3 charges about 50 yards. Submarine broke surface 40 minutes later, bow and conning tower appeared for about 4 minutes, then disappeared stern first. (CIRCASSIA, 2214/18).

WAR DIARY

War Diary

19.8.1940.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Operation P.N.

3 M.T.B's last night carried out a sweep off the mouths of the Scheldt and Maas to report and subsequently attack enemy transports if encountered.

A/S Practice

C. in C., W.A. atributes the recent apparent lack of success in the anti-U-Boat campaign largely to lack of A/S practices. He proposes certain remedies.

Air

10 Battles last night attacked E-Boats and aircraft at Boulogne. Results were not observed.

Aircraft from Hatston attacked shipping in Haugesund and secured two hits with 40 lb. bombs on a transport.

Raiding by single aircraft or at most two or three, in contrast to previous days, the enemy attacked military objectives and aerodromes in southern England.

A single aircraft did some damage at Worthy Down F.A.A. aerodrome in the afternoon. At 1515 two aircraft delivered salvoes at the Llanreath oil tanks at Pembroke, hitting the tanks and starting a serious fire which was not got under control until 0030/20. Eight out of 15 tanks are involved, containing many thousands of tons of petrol. SS WALDINGE was hit by 2 bombs in the Convoy Anchorage at MilfordHaven.

Four unexploded bombs were dropped in the magazine at Wrabness near Harwich p.m./19. No damage was caused. (D.O.R.)

At 1610 a single aircraft dropped bombs at Portland apparently aimed at the Mere Oil fuel Depot, but no damage is reported.

A single aircraft raided the dockyard at Chatham at 1635, and one building was wrecked by bombs.

/The R.F.A...

War Diary

19.8.1940.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Air. Contd.

The R.F.A. LOCH was bombed off the S.W. coast of Ireland about midday. The bombs missed but slight damage was done and casualties caused by small shells and machine gun fire.

Mining

FD 24

CACHALOT laid mines off the S.W. coast of Brittany before proceeding on patrol

Enemy aircraft minelaying last night is suspected off East Anglia and in the Thames Estaury.

A mine was exploded off Falmouth today. Milford Haven is closed at night.

North Atlantic

Force H.

Force H. was proceeding to Gibraltar at 0215 today when approx. 37° 35' N., 16° 10' W., a signal was received that SS ROWALLAN was being chased by a raider, 240 miles to the westward. Other reports placed her 115 miles south of this position. As the destroyers under escort had insufficient fuel and ENTERPRISE had been detached,

RENOWN and ARK ROYAL proceeded unescorted at 26 knots to investigate. At D715 Aircraft were flown off to cover both positions. At 1050, however, RENOWN learnt that CIRCASSIA had fired at ROWALLAN CASTLE. The aircraft on return at 1100 reported having sighted SS ROWALLAN CASTLE, and RENOWN and ARK ROYAL set course for Gibraltar.

U-Boat off Canary Is.

SS AGUILA today reported being gunned by a raider and shelled by a submarine North East of the Canary Is. From a later signal, however, it would appear that only a U-Boat was concerned in the attack. The range was 8000 to 9000 yards and no damage or casualties occurred. The U-Boat, which is described as probably Italian ARCHIMEDE type, broke off the engagement.

/Mediterranean.....

1

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.8.1940.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

R.A.F. machines successfully bombed Turin and Milan last night.

A salvo of bombs was dropped last night near the jetty at Derna. Results were not observed.

Aircraft reported a convoy of 2 large and 4 small ships, steering west, south of Sardinia at 0445 today. These may have been warships.

Somaliland

The last stragglers from Berbera were embarked early this morning, and HOBART, after bombarding Berbera left fo Aden with G.H.Q. CALEDON was still searching the coast to the westward at 0630.

Situation

At 0744Z today S.N.O. Red Sea, who arranged the evacuation reported that the following numbers had arrived at Aden: Combatants including beach parties, 5370, Civilians 1044, Casualties 175, total 6589. It is believed there were no naval casualties.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.8.1940.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

A/S Practices for Escorts and Striking Forces

Consider of great importance that all Escorts and Striking Forces should have A/S Practice immediately after boiler cleaning and before proceeding on duty. Most suitable exercise Bases are Campbelltown and Tobermory. Belfast and Liverpool not suitable. Request necessary submarines and Supervising Officers be provided as early as practicable. Similar facilities for Northern Escort Force should be provided at Rosyth. (C. in C., W.A. 2036/19 to Adty.)

Defence of U.K.

West Solent Defences

Request M.N.B.D.O. 6-inch Battery may be moved to site to protect W. Approach to Southampton and Portsmouth as soon as Relief Battery is complete with stores and ready to take over tasks at Lowestoft. Please report details of proposed site. (V.C.N.S. 1040/19 to G.H.Q. Home Forces.)

RODNEY
REPULSE

As R/C shows German heavy ships now under repair, suggest RODNEY proceed to Rosyth for 14 days to give leave. (V.C.N.S. 1457/19 to C. in C., H.F) Concur. Will sail ship when Escort available, probably 23rd August. Request additional Boiler-makers be sent Rosyth to expedite re-tubing of Boiler. Also very desirable to dock REPULSE and this should be done if possible after RODNEY returns. (C. in C., H.F. 2229/19 to Adty.)

German Main Units

No reported movements. (D.D.I.C. 1514/19)

Movements

Nore Command

Night dispositions 19/20 (C. in C., Nore 0800/19) Day Patrols and movements to 1200/20 (C. in C., Nore 1200/19)

FIJI

To sail for Rosyth at 0600/20. (C. in C., H.F. 1017/19 to FIJI)

M.T.

Will leave Methil at 0930/20. Close escort SIKH, VIXIEN, who are later to escort FS 58. ZULU will join from Tyne. (C. in C., Rosyth 1111/19 to SIKH)

/Patrols T and O.....

MOST SECRET

19.8.1940.
Monday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Movements, Contd.

Patrols T and C.	Cancel my 0925/17. During present week Patrols will be carried out as follows. (C. in C., Nore 1205/19)
Belfast A/S Striking Force	Your 1455/18. Destroyers will work from Belfast when other duries permit. As to aircraft A.O.C. 16 Group considers proposal for Lough Neagh and Aldergrove impracticable for following reasons. (C. in C., W.A. 1244/19 to Capt. A/S Belfast)
Dover	Patrols for night 19/20. (V.A.Dover 1444/19)
3rd M.A/S.B. Flotilla	Request you sail Flotilla indtpendently for Portsmouth this p.m. (D.A/S.W. 1500/19 to F.O.I.C. Portland) Intend sailing M.A/S.B's 45,50,51, and 55 at 1530/19 for Portsmouth via Needles Channel. Speed 35 knots. Expect enter Needles at 1630. No 52 defective, remains at Portland. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1501/19 to Adty.)
S-class Destroyers for Western Approaches	4 of the "S" class Destroyers from Portsmouth best equipped for A/S work are to join C. in C., W.A. as soon as convenient. (V.C.N.S. 1504/19 to C. in C., Portsmouth)
Harwich	Night dispositions and Movements to 1200/20. (N.O.I.C. Harwich 1602/19)
Orkneys	Movements Night 19/20. (A.C.O.S. 1629/19) State of A/S Trawlers (A.C.O.S. 1930/19)

Operations

Operations HATS	Your 1508/13. VALIANT will sail from Liverpool at 1330/20, departure of remaining Units being adjusted to conform Time of arrival is governed by speed of ROYAL SCOTSMAN; and, if she were detached independently with small Escort for last portion of passage, Main Force could arrive Gibraltar earlier. (D.O.D.F. 0016/19)

/R.A.A.....

MOST SECRET

19.8.1940.
Monday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations, Contd.

R.A.A. Mediterranean in ILLUSTRIOUS is to take SHEFFIELD, YORK, TARTAR, BEDOUIN, MASHONA and FIREDRAKE under his orders and proceed at 0700/20. Force to pass through 58° 45' N., 11° 28' W. and thence to R/V with VALIANT and Convoy at 55° 27' N., 11° 28' W., at 1430/21. At 55° 52' N., 20° W., TARTAR, BEDOUIN and MASHONA are to part company and return to Scapa, carrying out an A/S sweep on passage. ILLUSTRIOUS to provide her own Air Escort. (C. in C., H.F. 1053/19)

My 1053/19. All movements are postponed 24 hours. (C. in C., H.F. 2232/19)

Fighter Code Word "GAMMA" has been allotted to Convoy sailing from Liverpool with VALIANT on 20th August. (D.O.D. 1244/19)

Admty's 1619/16 and my 2032/18. Request you arrange for FORTUNE to proceed with COVENTRY and CALCUTTA to join VALIANT (C. in C., W.A. 1608/19 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

Owing to delays in loading M.T. ships, sailing of all Forces to be postponed 24 hours. (V.C.N.S. 2004/19)

Your 2032/18 Para 4. It is desired that the ships bound for Freetown should follow a more Easterly course from Position D. until about in the latitude of Gibraltar. (D.O.D.F. 2013/19 to C. in C., W.A.)

Royal Australian Navy

Your 1942/17. Proposed drafting of Ratings to U.K. to man "N" class destroyers (1st N.M.Melbourne 12552/19 to 1st S.L.)

Attack on Bear Island Fishing Grounds

Your 2306/18. Is there any objection to using 2 ships of 15th C.S. for this. (C. in C., H.F. 1414/19 to Admty.) No objection (V.C.N.S. 2225/19 to C. in C., H.F.)

/Floating Dock XII.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.8.1940.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations- Contd.

Floating Dock XII	CAIRO to sail from Rosyth 2000/19 to provide A/A Cover for Dock leaving Tyne p.m./20th (C. in C., H.F. 1444/19 to R.A. A/A Ships) Your 1444/19. Dock leaves Tyne 1800/20. Request CAIRO be sailed direct to meet convoy off 20.C. Bucy. Intend CAIRO only take charge in case of emergency. (C. in C., Rosyth 1751/19 to C. in C., H.F.) My 1444/19. Cancel first sentence. CAIRO to sail at 0500/20 and R/V off Tyne at 1800/20. (C. in C., H.F. 1934/19 to R.A A/A Ships)
Iceland	MANCHESTER CITY is required sail from Clyde in Convoy leaving 1/9 for Iceland after completing with Coal, Mines Stores at Rosyth. Request you provide special Destroyer Escort to take her Rosyth to Clyde, leaving Rosyth 28 or 29/8. (C. in C., Rosyth 1631/19 to C. in C., H.F.)
Convoy H.P. (R.M.Brigade)	Sailing deferred for at least 48 hours. Escorts should be released. (V.C.N.S. 1823/19 to C. in C., H.F.)

Submarines

H.34	Patrol in Zones H 1., and H 2., north of 53° 15' N., (S.O. Harwich submarine Flotilla 0505/19)
Positions	For following 24 hours at 0600/20. Area A (V.A.S. 1646/19) Area B (V.A.S. 1647/19)
CLYDE	To leave Patrol 2300/21 and proceed submerged by day. Route (Capt. S.9. 1741/19)
CACHALOT	Your 1833/7/7. Patrolling off West Coast of France. (C. in C., W.A. 1609/19 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

19.8.1940.
Monday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

R.C. of Coast of Norway — Aircraft proceeded at 1940/19 to make R.C. of Coast of Norway from Lister to 62° N., (C. in C., Rosyth 1115/19)

M.V. Attacked — 62° 8' N., 5° 8' E., bombed 5000 ton ship with tug ahead and tug astern. Bombs 4-20 lb. A.P. fell within 30 yards of ships (Donibristle 1530/19)

Air Searches — For 20/8. (C. in C., Rosyth 1916/19 2316/19) (Includes escorts for FIJI (on passage to Scapa) Floating dock and E.N.3)

Attack on shipping in Haugesund — My 1205. Aircraft to harass shipping near Fane Fjord Bjorne Fiord. All aircraft returned. One section met bad weather and was forced to turn back early. Second section attacked two transports about 3000 tons in Haugesund one hit by two 40 lb bombs on foredeck. Third section found no ships in Bommel or Selbjorn Fiords and attacked two small oil tanks on east side of Bommel. Result not known until photographs developed. Further details (Hatston 2000/19 1124/20)

Enemy Air Activity

Aircraft dropped parachute flares near New Island Light. (WALKER 0310/19)

Worthy Down — Surprise dive bombing attack at 1424 by a single aircraft. 3 bombs. Damage to buildings and aprons, electric cable etc., Minor damage to 4 or 5 aircraft outside hangers. 6 minor casualties (Worthy Down (S.O.I./19) Details of damage (Supt. C.E. 1653/20)

Milford Haven — Llan~~worth~~rca oil tanks attacked by 2 bombers and one fighter at 1515. 2 tanks hit and on fire, other tanks collapsing with heat. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1549/19, 1654/19)

Dover — Attack by 2 aircraft at 1500. Some casualties to Naval personnel. (V.A.Dover 1601/19)

/WLADINGE.....

MOST SECRET

19.8.1940.
Monday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity, Contd.

WALDINGE	(2462 tons) Hit by 2 bombs at 0130 in the Convoy Anchorage at Milford Haven. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0959/19 to Adty.)
Portland	At 1612 4 bombs dropped by one aircraft apparently at Mere Oil Fuel Depot. All bombs fell Chesil Beach side of tanks. No damage. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1816/19)
Filton Aerodrome	Temporarily obstructed (Air Min. 1848/19)
Chatham	Raid 1635 by solitary aircraft on dockyard. Damage to building (Supt. C.E. Chatham Dkyd 1935/19)
LOOE	R.F.A. Bombed 11 miles from Balbrook in 51° 28' N., 10° 30' W., (Portsmouth Radio Recd. 1151/19)

Mining

Milford Haven	Port open (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1015/19) No mines detonated today. Port will be clos after Convoy sails this evening until 1100/ 20. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1840/19. to Adty.)
The Naze	Fast Minesweepers will be operating to-morrow close to 51° 54' N., 1° 40' E., Code word SOLLO. Request Air protection (C. in C., Nore 1735/19 to A.D. C. in C. F.C.)
Falmouth	One Mine exploded today 214 St. Anthony 13 cables (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 2032/19 to C. in C., W.A.)
Explosions	At about 1900/19 in 58° 10' N., 1° W., A/C saw 2 large explosions in the sea about 8 miles away and 1 further explosion about 1 minute later. No shipping or aircraft in sight. (Donibristle 2220/19 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.8.1940.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

At 0330/19 in 52° 26' N., 3° 23' E., about 100 Lights on water, well spread out and no wake distinguished. Aircraft report. (H.Q.B.C. 1906/19)

AMOU — Commodore reports Ship called AMOU calling German station letters passed close at 0315 (GLEANER 0620/19 to Adty.)

Kirtingsoy Island — a.m./19th Aircraft observed a Covered Way between two Islands, apparently of corrugated iron. (Donibristle 1445/19)

Hellisoy Island — a.m. 19th Aircraft sighted at 60° 50' N., 4° 40' E., two cargo ships of about 1000 tons each on course 160° and 200° respectively. (Donibristle 1445/19)

Miscellaneous

Icelandic trawler HELGAFELL arrived Reykjavik p.m. today with 32 feet sloop rigged service cutter number 128 built 1939. Found adrift and empty 6 miles S.W. Oversay 15th August. Papers in boat belong to G. Gaylor apparently A.B. of Chatham Division aged 21 of 92 East Cross Causeway Edinburgh, (F.O.I.C. Reykjavik 2045/19 to Adty.)

Shipping

Convoys

OGM 41
SL 42 B — ARSENAL to leave OGM 41 at 2030/19 for Holyhead to await you orders for meeting SL 42 B on 20/8. (F.O.I.C. Milford to C. in C., W.A., 1000/19)

Channel — Convoys for St. Helier and Dartmouth (F.O.I.C., Portland 1215/19)

6 Ships — To sail 2030, escort ROSEMARY, codeword "Robin" from Dartmouth. VOLVERINE and VOLUNTEER to cover. (C. in C., W.A. 1556 and 1557/19) (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth, 1556/19)

M.P. — Sailing deferred for at least 48 hours (D.O.D. (N) 1823/19)

/OA 121,.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

19.8.1940.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoys-Contd.

OA 121	Longitude Cape Wrath 2300/19 southbound (A.C.O.S. 1629/19)
WN 8	Arrived Dundee (N.C.S.O. Dundee 1000/19) Arrived Methil (N.C.S.O. Methil 1232/19)
HX 63	Arrived 0945/19 (N.C.S.O. Methil 0955/19)
EN 3	List (N.C.S.O. Methil 1340/19)
AMERICAN LEGION	Possibly north of Shetlands southbound on meridian 01° 30' W., (A.C.O.S. 1629/19)
Routes	Ref. 383 Q.Z.H. and Admty. 1348/14/7, vessels may now be routed as follows when draught and other conditions admit. From Middle Cross Sand Buoy close eastward of East and Middle Holm Buoys, East Newcombe and East and South Barnard buoys. Thence close inshore and inside Sizewell Bank. (D.T.D. 1304/19)

MOST SECRET

19.8.1940.
Monday

War Diary

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

KIRNWOOD — In tow, leaves Yarmouth 200/19, due Nore 1600/20. (N.O.I.C. Harwich 1602/19)

PILAR DE LARRINAGA — British, 7046 tons. Reports collision with ship in Southbound Convoy at 0030/19. Slight damage. (SKERRYA 1207/19 to C. in C., Rosyth) (Scapa W/T 1851/19 to Adty.)

BRITISH COMMANDER — My 1123/18. Has arrived Capetown (S.O.I. Capetown 1605/19 to Adty.)

ALCINOUS — Dutch 6189 tons. Torpedoed 16/8 has arrived in tow at Greenock. (D.S. 350)

EL HAK — British. Bombed on 13/8 has arrived at Aden (D.S. 350)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

19.8.40.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

ROWALLAN CASTLE shelled by CIRCASSIA

At 0112/19 ROWALLAN CASTLE reported shelled by raider in 40° N., 20°30' W. 7 mins. later she was still being chased and gunned.
At 0136 G.M.T. CIRCASSIA, A.M.C. reported she had fired at ROWALLAN CASTLE, the incident being confirmed by that ship. (Lands End Radio 0112/19, 0119/19, C. in C., W.A., 0136/19, Gibraltar W/T, 0201/19, Colombo, 0302Z/19, D.C., 0955/19, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1014/17, D.D.I.C., 2308/19).
At 0215/19 when in approx. 37°35' N. 016°10' W. signal received ROWALLAN CASTLE chased by raider 240 miles to westward. Four further reports received, two placing her 115 miles south of first reported position.
Destroyers under escort having insufficient fuel and ENTERPRISE having been detached, RENOWN and ARK ROYAL proceeded unscreened at 26 knots to investigate. 13 aircraft flown off at 0715 to cover both positions.
At 0950 called ROWALLAN CASTLE using Gibraltar W/T call sign but received no reply. At 1050 received Adty's 0955/19 stating CIRCASSIA had fired at ROWALLAN CASTLE. Aircraft on return at 1100 reported having sighted ROWALLAN CASTLE. Set course for Gibraltar. (F.O.C. Force H. 1220/20).

HOTSPUR, ENCOUNTER, GREYHOUND, GALLANT returned to Gibraltar 2222/19 (on account of postponement of RENOWN's arrival) (S.O.(I) Gib. 2248/19).

Force H.

Position course and speed at noon, 142, 40° N., 20° W., 55, 134, 25, altering to 080° at 0330/20. ARK ROYAL in company. Expect arrive 1815/20. Asking for ENCHANTRESS to await arrival. (F.O., Force H., 1225/19). Your 1225. ENCHANTRESS will wait accordingly. (F.O.C.N.A. 1708/19).

AGUILA raider report

AGUILA, British, 3255 tons, gunned by enemy surface vessel or raider in 31°15' N., 13°02' W. (Gib. W/T, no T.O.O./19). Gunned by raider at 1911 and shelled by s/m 1925 (F.O.C.N.A. 2127/19)(Left Lisbon for Canary Is. 14/8 D.S.350).

MOST SECRET

19.8.40.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic.

CARNARVON CASTLE	Dates of leaving Greenock and arriving Freetown. (C. in C., W.A., 1112/19).
CUMBERLAND	Programme for patrol (C. in C., S.A., 1135/19).
Removal of Mails	Adty. 1942/14, re removal of all mails from neutral ships calling at Freetown. Do these instructions apply to transit mail? (S.O.I., Freetown to Adty., 1217/19).
MALOJA	To dock after arrival U.K. with convoy S.L.49 (date). (C. in C., S.A., 1230/19).
Oil Situation	Your 1410/17. Commercial oil bunkering situation in U.K. much improved and now possible to allow ships capable of so doing to bunker in U.K. for full outward voyage. (D.T.D., to C. in C., S.A., 1845/19).
BRITISH COMMANDER	Reported overdue, my-1128/18, has arrived Capetown. (S.O.I., Capetown, 1605/19).
French S/m	French S/m reported by aircraft from Freetown in position approx. 23 miles S.W. from Konakri at 1610 today, when last seen was steering 280, presumed proceeding Dakar. In view of definite request from De Gaulle's representative that no untoward event should occur during progress of their negotiations, I have given orders to aircraft to attack if identified as enemy or if she was acting suspiciously, but consider I should have been justified in ordering aircraft to attack as submarine was unescorted and no previous information of her movements had been received. Although provisions of Adty. 0241/12/7 were communicated to Vice Consul Duala for French Naval Authorities it would appear that these have been disregarded by them. (C. in C., S.A., 2031/19).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

19.8.40.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

PROTEUS — Date ready for sea. (F.O.I.C. Malta, 1101/19).

Enemy Intelligence — Blenheim aircraft reports convoy 2 large 4 small ships south of Sardinia course W. at 0445/19. (F.O.I.C. Malta, 1137/19).

"Hats" — Your 1355/18 and 1929/18. Observations (C. in C., Med., 1047/19). (See Mediterranean Volume).

Submarines — To keep at least 40 miles clear of line joining position 180° Sapinza 20 miles to Valetta on night of 21-22/8. (C. in C., Med., 1233/19)(Capt. S.I. 2145/19).

"Bonnet" — Numbers of Army personnel which would have to accompany the 2 M.T. ships if "Bonnet" is ordered. (D.O.D.(F) to F.O. Force H., 1634/19).

Enemy Intelligence — Report of convoy south of Sardinia. May have been warships. (F.O.I.C., Malta, 1137/19, 2111/19).

DESTRO — Adty. 1150/17. Intended DESTRO should be included in convoy A.S.3. (C. in C., Med., 1321/19).

French Danger Area — French P.L. message from Toulon announces danger area 500 metres radius from point 75° from Eastern Point of Ile Sainte Margarite (D.D.I.C. 1612/19 to C. in C., Med.).

Crete — Situation. Reply to his telegram 688 to F.O. (C. in C., Med. to Minister, Athens, 1341/19. See Mediterranean Volume).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

19.8.40.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (Contd.)

Report from I

Report from Italian Naval personnel B.2 A. Up to 9/7 at least 16 submarines all posted as missing at Italian operationsl bases.

Italian submarine which arrived damaged FIUME 8/7 had been depth charged off Sicily.

Heavy shell from WARSPITE which struck CAVOUR during their engagement carried away part of bridge and forward funnel causing great panic.

In engagement between Italian destroyer or light cruiser and British Forces off Crete date unknown British gunnery very accurate. British ships also reported as closing in most determined manner. Speed required by Italians to escape raised engine room temperature to exceed 70° centigrade (158° F). (N.A. Belgrade 1300/19).

French Crews

Ref. 1236/11. Majority of crew of French ships ROXANE and MELPOMENE have been sent to Syria. Only two officers and 7 men volunteered for service with British. One of the former has since gone sick. Ships are in Suez Roads with C. and M parties on board. (S.B.N.O., Suez Canal Area, 1803/19, to C. in C., Med.)

Mediterranean (Air)

MOORSTONE

Mooring vessel, hit by bombs during air raid at Alexandria night of 15-16/8 causing extensive damage. Vessel subsequently sank and is partially submerged in Arsenal basin. Efforts to raise appear within capacity of dockyard. (A.S., Alexandria, 1019/19).

Air Torpedo

C. in C., Med., 1815/17 re objects x dropped during air raid on Alexandria. Consider fittings are off torpedo. (Min. of aircraft Production, 1540/19). Further reply (T. & M.D., 1231/19).

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Air (Contd.)

Balloons, Alexandria — Repeating C. in C., Med's reply to Air Min. X.346, 9/8, and supporting his request for arrangements against low flying aircraft to be expedited. (D. of L.D. to Air Min. 1601/19).

Derna bombed — Night of 18-19/8, 1 Bombay 216 Sqdn., attacked Derna. One salvo fell near jetty and shipping, another on shore. Results not observed. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1652/19).

East Indies

Berbera, Evacuation — SHOREHAM left 0300Z/19 escorting TUNA to Aden. (CARLISLE, 0321Z/19).

Last 2 lighters in tow of PROTECTOR sailed 0150Z today. Embarked 3 more stragglers from Berbera after daylight and 3 more were hauled through surf on beach to west of Berbera. CALEDON searching coast as far west as Gerik. HOBART bombarded Berbera with 6" H.E. shells. 66 rounds fired. Am returning to Aden. (HOBART, 0630Z/19).
Arrived Aden to date, including beach parties, combatants 5370, civilians 1044, casualties 175, total 6,589. G.H.Q. and stragglers yet to come in HOBART. Hospital ship KARAPARA evacuated 6 casualties included above. Believed no naval casualties. (S.N.O., Red Sea, 0744Z/19).

ROYAL SOVEREIGN — Adty. 1751/9. Delayed at Aden, boiler defects. Revised date of arrival at Durban. (C. in C., E.I., 0756Z/19).

Routes — Following routes through Red Sea are established. (C. in C., E.I., 1040Z/19).

Convoy US.4 — C. in C., E.I., 1842Z/18. In view of effect on shipping, we agree to hold contents of US.4 in India (Army, India, 1654/19 to Adty.)

East Indies - Air

Patrols — One Blenheim IV of 203 Sqdn. carried out standing patrol over HOBART covering final evacuation. One Vincent of 8 Sqdn. carried out A/S patrol approaches to Aden Harbour. (Air H.Q., Aden, 1943/19).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

19.8.40.
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

Shanghai Evacuation — Re date of departure of HOSANG and TAKSANG. (R.N.O. Shanghai, 0100Z/19).

POLYKARP — Norwegian. Aruba reports crew demand gun mounted before sailing for U.K. Master states above demand in handwriting not that of any of crew. Effort being made to trace agitators. (S.O.I., Kingston, 1628/19).

FAGERFJELL — Norwegian. My 1026/16. Tampico reports loaded 19000 barrels of Diesel oil. As yet no Diesel lubricating oil available but fully supplied provisions. (S.O.I. Kingston, 1644/19).

Australia and New Zealand

U.S.4. — Your 0001/19. C. in C., India pressed to arrange accommodation in India for troops ex U.S.4 while awaiting onward passage to Middle East. Final decision must await his reply. Presumably any delay to U.S.4 will necessitate similar postponement to U.S.5 on account of escort arrangements. (D.O.D.(F) to N.Z.N.B., 2011/19).

My 2011/19. C. in C., India has agreed to hold contents of U.S.4. Arrangements for embarkation of troops and sailing should therefore proceed with as little delay as possible. (D.O.D.(F) to A.C.N.B. & N.Z.N.B., 1037/20).

Dutch Ships — Replying to D. of S.T. 0040/15 and 0132/8 re charter and management of Dutch ships. (A.C.N.B., 1230Z/19).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

19.8.40.
Monday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

ITHAKA	Arrived 18/8. (Macrae, Galatz, 1221/19).
MARITZA	Split reports sailed from Sibenik night of 17/18 with cargo of bauxite. (S.O.I., Alexandria, 0934/19).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

FRANCA FASSIO	Arrived from Genoa. (Barcelona 1246/19).
CAMPERO	Arrived (Barcelona, 1246/19).
Tanker	Name unknown, 1515 tons, left Fiume 1100/19 with petrol, destination suggest Libya. (Susak, 2150/19).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

20.8.40.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

U-Boat sunk

CACHALOT today reports that she has sunk an enemy submarine off Lorient.

NAIAD and BONAVENTURE arrived at Scapa today from patrol north of the Faroes.

British Air Activity

42 Wellingtons last night attacked Kiel and Wilhelmshaven Dockyards, the aqueduct at the Dortmund-Ems Canal and other targets. At Kiel several bursts were observed in the dockyards, but detailed observation was prevented by clouds. Results were not observed at Wilhelmshaven. Bursts were observed slightly to north east of the target centre in the attack on the aqueduct at the Dortmund-Ems Canal. GNEISENAU at Kiel was to have been attacked but could not be located owing to the weather conditions.

5 Hampdens laid mines at Aalborg, and
6 Swordfish in Ems River and Hubert Gat.

Early this morning aircraft on patrol bombed 4 E-boats 20 miles south of Portland. Near misses were obtained and the E-boats made off towards Cherbourg.

Air R/C at 1300/20 showed 9 E-boats at Boulogne.

Bad weather today caused all security patrols to be cancelled. Routine patrols covering the southern half of the North Sea and the Channel were carried out, also reconnaissances of Hook of Holland to Ostend, Dunkirk - St. Omer - Calais, Dunkirk - Dieppe, Le Havre - Cherbourg, and photographic reconnaissances of northern French ports.

At 0850 an aircraft on patrol sighted 2 destroyers escorting a U-boat in 55.30 N., 5.31 E. and attacked with bombs, and considered that he damaged one destroyer and the submarine. The Aircraft shadowed the enemy until 1130, and then returned to base. A second aircraft sent out also attacked the enemy, but did not obtain any hits.

War Diary

MOST SECRET

20.8.40.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

Raids today were on a small scale, except for one attempt by about 200 aircraft on the S.E. coast this afternoon, which was driven off and little damage was done.

Lawreath oil tanks were attacked again at 0140 by one aircraft, but the few bombs, which were dropped caused no further damage. The fire still burning but it is hoped to save 8 out of the 15 tanks. There were no Naval casualties in either attack. The A.A. defences of Milford Haven area are being reinforced.

Convoy "AGENT" was attacked at 1709 in 51.31 N. 2.14 E.

WALKER in charge of a convoy OB.200 reported being bombed at 1305 in the North Western Approaches. S.S. HERISLE was damaged, but was able to proceed after effecting repairs.

S.S. MAGDALENA reported being attacked but gave no position.

Convoy FN.58 was attacked off Orfordness.

As result of bombing of Falmouth at 2130 today M/S trawler RESPARKO was sunk and tugs ST. MELLONS and ZWARTE ZEE were damaged.

S.S. PEEBLES was attacked and slightly damaged this morning in St. Georges Channel and trawler M was attacked at 1100 by 4 aircraft 18 miles West of the Smalls but was not damaged.

Trawler AVONDALE reports that she was attacked with machine guns at masthead height on 17/8 and repulsed the enemy by firing distress rockets. The trawler suffered no damage or casualties.

War Diary

MOST SECRET

20.8.40.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

A force of 3 mine layers and 2 destroyers from the Humber last night laid mines in the East Coast Mine Barrier.

An aircraft, possibly minelaying, was sighted over Scapa Flow at 0112 today. Mines were reported dropped at Hoy mouth and movement in the Flow was stopped until sweeping had been carried out. A mine (at first thought to be a bomb) was dropped near Hatston aerodrome.
The entrance to Stromness from the westward is closed.

(The Humber was closed from 0057 until
(1138 today.
(Two mines were exploded off Spurn Point.

No mines were detonated during the morning sweep at Milford Haven. The port was closed at sunset as usual.

Foreign Stations

Force H. HOTSPUR, ENCOUNTER, GREYHOUND and GALLANT left Gibraltar at 0215 to meet Force H.

Mediterranean Light Forces The Mediterranean Light Force was reorganised today. Vice Admiral Tovey (V.A.L.F.) 2nd in command Medit. Fleet, will have under his command the 7th C.S. (ORION, SYDNEY) and destroyers. R.A. Renouf will command the 3rd C.S. (KENT (flag), GLOUCESTER LIVERPOOL). The tital V.A.D. lapses.

Air attack on Malta Damage was caused today by an air attack on Hal Far and Luqa aerodromes at Malta.

Mines off Alexandria Since 12/8 20 moored mines have been swept off Alexandria.

OSIRIS OSIRIS today reports that on 15/8 she sank a 3000 ton Italian merchant ship in the southern Adriatic. She is returning to Alexandria with defects.

Raid on Tobruk Last night, one Bombay aircraft bombed and hit the naval oil tanks and jetties at Tobruk, but results were unobserved.

War Diary

MOST SECRET

20.8.40.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Foreign Stations (Contd.)

Effect of Fleet bombardment

Air reconnaissance of Bardia after the Fleet bombardment 17/8 shows Capuzzo well hit but Bardia escaped serious damage owing to the cliffs masking the town, though the southern defences were hit.

Raider off New Zealand

The S.S. TURAKINA (9691 tons) was gunned by a raider in the East Tasman Sea this morning. ACHILLES is proceeding from Wellington with the Commodore N.Z. Sqdn.

MOST SECRET

20.8.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Aircraft and Oil-tracks — Proposed instructions to aircraft to ignore oil tracks on sea unless a U-boat has been attacked. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1228/20 to A.O. C. in C., C.C.).

A/S Practices — Your 2036/19. Concur that want of A/S practice is large factor in want of success. Also long trips with large convoys may reduce A/S efficiency. Suggest Northern Escort Force be based on West side, and escorts changed there to shorten trip. Liverpool and Northern Section of Escorts could then be placed under one command. (C. in C., Rosyth 1037/20 to C. in C., W.A.)

A.F. Messages Period of Validity — Your 1727/17/8. Concur with Rosyth 1101/18 that period should be 24 hours. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1155/20 to Adty.)

French Ships — CHEVREUIL and CAPRICIEUSE have Asdics and are suitable for A/S work in moderate weather. Suggest we bring them forward as soon as we can and sail them to West Coast to work up. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1303/20 to Adty.)

Milford Haven A/A Defences — Ref. Adty. Letter M/L.D. 0848/40 dated 11 July 1940, request urgent consideration be given to provision of these Defences. Large stocks of oil remain in area and other vital targets. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1259/20 to Fighter Command). Information received that 8 heavy A.A. guns and 24 S.L. are being ordered into Milford Haven area. (D. of L.D. 2144/20 to C. in C. W.A.).

Ford. Lee. Worthy Down — Assistance of 18 Hispano guns much appreciated Request equipments and ammunition be sent six each to Ford, Lee, Worthy Down. (D. of L.D. 1300/20 to Air Ministry).

RODNEY — Your 2229/19. For consideration whether while giving leave ship should be docked and retubing on one boiler room at a time be taken in hand, accepting reduction to three-quarters boiler power. Request your remarks (D.O.D.H. 1532/20 to C. in C., H.F.) Fully concur (C. in C., H.F. 1723/20 to Adty.)

1

War Diary

MOST SECRET

20.8.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K. (Contd.)

Gun Defence of R.N. Air Stations

Following additional guns have been sent for temporary defence of Ford, Lee, Eastleigh, Worthy Down, Yeovilton, St. Merryn. Guns to be manned by personnel of stations, and are all to be returned on 2nd Sept. As more permanent measure Air Ministry are providing 18 Hispano 20 mm guns and ammunition about 26/8. (D.T.S.D. 1741/20 to RANAS).

Your 1741/20. There are not sufficient naval ratings at Air stations to provide crews for these guns or for permanent establishment of automatic weapons. Southern Command have undertaken to provide troops to man machine guns at naval air stations but up to the present have sent no troops to Lee on Solent or Worthy Down. Request W.O. may be asked to confirm that military guns crews will be provided or alternatively that additional seamen ratings b be drafted to form crews. (R.A.N.A.S. 1830/20 to Adty.)

Movements

Balloons — Daily operations report at 0700/20. (H.Q. Balloon Command 0915/20).

HARVESTER — Join ARROW and ACHATES at about 56° N., 10°48' W. (Capt. A/S Belfast 0930/20 to HARVESTER).

Nore Command — Day patrols and movements to 1200/21. (C. in C., Nore, 1200/20).

HOOD — No date of completion can be given at present. Difficulty in removing front chock of turret. (Naval Spt. Rosyth 1301/20 to F.O.C. 1st B.C.S.).

Belfast A/S Striking Force — WANDERER and WITCH sailed. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1353/20 to Adty.). Intend sailing ANTHONY and AMAZON pm/22nd. (Capt. D.12 1611/20 to Capt. A/S Belfast).

Dover — Patrols for night 20/21. (V.A. Dover 1446/20 to Adty.)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

20.8.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements (Contd.)

AURORA	Cancel my 0025/19 and my 1035/19. Owing to loss of accommodation and increased complement dur to A/A re-armament, no longer practicable to employ AURORA as Flagship of R.A.D. So do not require ship to be sailed to Scapa. (C. in C., H.F. 1446/20 to C.S.2).
Patrol O	Night 20/21 and 21/8. (N.O.I.C. Humber, 1537/20 to KELLET).
Humber	Movements for night 20/21 and day 21/8. (N.O.I.C. Humber, 1537/20 to KELLET).
RESTIGOUCHE	N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 1822/1/8. OTTAWA will arrive U.K. with T.C.7 on date to relieve RESTIGOUCHE, who will proceed to Halifax for refit. C. in C., W.A. is requested to sail RESTIGOUCHE with destroyer escort sent to meet T.C.7 so as to pass OTTAWA in Northern Approaches. (D.O.D.H. 1635/20).
Portsmouth	Night movement signal (C. in C., Portsmouth 1657/20).
Orkneys	Movements for night 20/21. (A.C.O.S. 1706/20)
ZULU	Sailed. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1838/20 to Adty.)
CAMBRIAN COAST	Propose sailing, escorted by ROSEMARY, expect arrive Penlee 0730/21. (N.C.S.O. Falmouth 1858/20 to C. in C., W.A.)
CARDIFF	Your 1723/20. Prefer CARDIFF leave Humber pm/22 to arrive destination about 1200/23. (C. in C., Nore, 2240/20 to C.S.2).

Operations

Operation PN (Maas and Scheldt)	One unit of 70 ft. M.T.Bs is to carry out operation PN tonight (C. in C., Nore 1055/20 to S.O. M.T.Bs Felixstowe). Cancel my 1055. Weather unsuitable. (C. in C., Nore, 1715/20).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

20.8.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations (Contd.)

Iceland

ROYAL ULSTERMAN, 16½ knots, with about 700 troops, will be ready to leave Clyde am/23rd. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested sail her with WORCESTERSHIRE and CILICIA to receive A/S protection till clear of s/m zone. After A/S escort has left, ship should be routed to Reykjavik, remaining with the A.M.Cs as long as possible; returning to Clyde unescorted after landing troops. (D.O.D.H. 1304/20 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Convoy BAS.3 (stores for Iceland) expected ready leave Clyde pm/1st Sept. C. in C., W.A. requested to detail 4 ships from Belfast trawler force as escort. (D.O.D.H. 1305/20 to C. in C., W.A.).

Future stores convoys to Iceland will be referred to as BAS followed by serial number. (D.O.D.H. 1305/20 to C. in C., W.A.).

Operation HATS

Adty's 2013/19. Amend para. 4 of my 2032/18 as follows. (Route for ships to Freetown) (C. in C., W.A. 1519/20 to R.A.A. Med. in ILLUSTRIOUS).

Intend sailing VALIANT, AJAX, ARGUS, FAULKNOR, FORESTER, FORESIGHT, FURY, HIGHLANDER, HURRICANE, HAVELOCK MTS, DUTCHESS OF BEDFORD, WAIOTIRA, ROYAL SCOTSMAN, DENBIGHSHIRE, and SYDNEY STAR 1400/21 speed 15½ knots to R.V. in position 55.27 N. 11.28 W. at 1430/22 with R.A.A. Medit. Routed in accordance with C. in C., W.A. 20/32/18. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1753/20 to Adty.)

Floating Dock No. XII

CAIRO proceed to Rosyth. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1523/20 to R.A. A/A cruisers.)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

20.8.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines

Adty's 1833/7/1

Greenock. Movements (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1557/20 and 0145/21 to Adty.) Western Approaches (C. in C., W.A. 1642/20 to Adty.) L.27 Eight hours notice. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1752/20 to Adty.)

Positions

For following 24 hours at 0600/21. Area A. (V.A.S. 1746/20)(V.A.S. 1923/20).
Area B. (V.A.S. 1747/20).

Anti-U-Boat Patrol

TRIDENT, SNAPPER, 0.21, 0.22, 0.23, to leave base 21/8 and patrol in positions stated. (V.A.S. 1921/20 to 52,53,59).

E-boats

2 E-boats 135° St. Catherines 15' (Portsmouth W/T 00100/20).

2 E-boats 240° Beachy Head 19' (Portsmouth W/T 0225/20) One M.T.B. leaves now for St. Catherines (C. in C., Portsmouth 0425/20 to GARTH, BERKELEY).
Aircraft bombed 4 E-boats at 0257/20 in 50.10 N. 2.11 W. Near misses claimed. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 0555/20 to Adty.) (Chatham Broadcast 0735/20).

At 0320/20 in 50° N. 3°54' E. 4 probable E-boats moving south. Aircraft report. (H.Q.B.C. 1559/20).

Dunkirk

2 E-boats leaving Dunkirk harbour. Aircraft report. (Chatham, A.C.H.Q. 1327/20).

Boulogne

At 1300/20, PRU Sortie shows 9 E-boats at Quai Chanzy. (PIU 1628/20).

1

War Diary

MOST SECRET

20.8.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

Patrols

Certain patrols cancelled owing to weather (C. in C., Rosyth, 0846/20).

Attack on 2 destroyers and 1 s/m

2 destroyers 1 s/m bearing 160° 10 miles course 360° 55°30' N. 5°31' E. (Aircraft 220 Sqdn. 0850/20). Have attacked with bombs no hits. Enemy's position 55°18' N. 5°42' E. (Aircraft 220 Sqdn. 0856/20 Donibristle 0856/20). Enemy has altered course 180° speed 12 knots. Request instructions (Aircraft 220 Sqdn. 0925/20). One destroyer stopped other screening submarine surfaced. (Aircraft 220 Sqdn. 0935/20). Enemy has altered course to 360° speed 12 knots. (Aircraft 220 Sqdn. 0951/20). Position course speed of 2 destroyers 55°25' N., 5°40' E. (Aircraft 220 Sqdn. 1305/20). Destroyers large type submarine appears same length as destroyers (C. in C., Rosyth 1502/20) My 0856 near miss probable damage to destroyer's stern (Donibristle 0928/20).. Salvo bombs submarine probably damaged my 0856. (Aircraft 220 Sqdn. 0950/20). My 0850 submarine submerged 2 destroyers course and speed 360° 15 knots (aircraft 220 Sqdn. 1005/20). Enemy's course and speed 010° 15 knots (Aircraft 220 Sqdn. 1030/20). My 1005 submarine surfacing periodically one M.L. astern enemy's course and speed 010° 12 knots. (Aircraft 220 Sqdn. 1100/20). My 0850 am returning to base. Position course and speed of enemy is 55° 42' N. 5°48' E. 010° 12 knots (Aircraft 220 Sqdn. 1130/20). My 1130 enemy has altered course to 180° speed 12 knots. (Aircraft 220 Sqdn. 1131/20). Have attacked enemy with bombs no hits (Aircraft 220 Sqdn. 1255/20). Ditto (Aircraft 220 Sqdn. 1320/20). In position 55°18' N. 5°42' E. at 0850 2 enemy destroyers in line abreast, 500 yards apart, and 1 U/boat between the 2 destroyers and 500 yards astern on course of 010°, speed 12 knots. Photographs taken. Aircraft made dive attack on the U.boat and then attacked one destroyer twice. After the attack force was shadowed until 1130 and the aircraft then returned direct to base without completing patrol. (Donibristle 1600/20).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

20.8.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity (Contd.)

Security Patrols Cancelled	All security patrols cancelled. Bad weather. (C. in C., Rosyth 1730/20).
Air searches patrols and escorts	For 21/8 (C. in C., Rosyth, 2050/20).
Kites	Use of Kites in ships generally to be discussed at meeting at Air Min. 21/8 (D. of L.D. 1306/20).
Dockyards at Kiel and Wilhelmshaven	Attacked by Wellingtons early am/20th. Several bursts seen at Kiel. Results at Wilhelmshaven not observed. (H.Q.B.C. 0248/21).
Weser-Elbe Canal	Bombed early am/20th. Straddled railway bridge 2' N.W. of Hanover; and Dortmund Canal straddled 2' S. of Meppen and bursts seen at aqueduct. (H.Q.B.C. 0248/21).
Dortmund-Ems Canal	

MOST SECRET

20.8.1940
Tuesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity

Scapa	Red warning 0112. 1 aircraft sighted over Flow possible minelaying. (A.C.O.S. 0442/20) (See Mining) One heavy bomb only dropped on foreshore close to Hatston aerodrome. Sweeping continues. (A.C.O.S. 1445/20)
Falmouth RESPARKO ST MELJONS ZWARTE ZEE	Result of bombing 2130/20. M/S Trawler sunk. Tug. Holed forward. Tug. Holed and beached. (N.O.i/c Falmouth 1031/21)
MilfordHaven	Lanreath oil tanks attacked again 0140/20 by one aircraft. A few bombs dropped, no further damage caused. Fire still burning but under better control, 6 tanks gone, 2 doubtful, hope to save remaining 9. No casualties to Adty personnel in either attack. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1022/20)
Trawler M.	Reports attacked at 1100/20 by 4 aircraft 18' West of Smalls. One bomb, missed. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1831/21 to Adty.)
SS MAGDALENA	Attacked by aircraft. No position given (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1158/20)
WALKER	Enemy bombing, 55° 53' N., 9° 55' W., (WALKER 1305/20)
HERISLE	HERISLE damaged, tug ordered to be sent, damage repaired tug not required. (C. in C., W.A. 1713/20, 2023/20, F.O.I.C. Greenock 1745/20, WALKER 1910/20) A/S T. NORTHERN DAWN to stand by (WALKER 1355/20)
AVONDALE Attacked, 17/8	Trawler. Attacked by aircraft in 51° 51' N., 10° 41' W. at 1700/17 B.S.T. Aircraft attacked with machine guns at mast head height. Attack repulsed by distress rockest fired by trawler. No damage no casualties. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1606/20)
Convoy "AGENT"	Bombed by enemy aircraft 51° 31' N., 2° 14' E., (WESTON 1709/20)

/Convoy off Orfordness ....

MOST SECRET

20.8.1940.
Tuesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity, Contd.

Convoy off Orfordness — My 1705. 9 bombs dropped near Trawlers (WINCHESTER 1713/20)

PEEBLES — Attacked by 3 aircraft at 1125/20 in52° 12' N., 5° 52' W., 36 bombs dropped and machine gunned. One hit, minor damage. Cook killed. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1149/21 to Adty.)

Mining

Humber — Closed. (F.O. Humber 0057/20 to Adty.) Red mines exploded by LL Trawlers, one at 128° Spurn Point Lighthouse 2.8 miles, and one at 118° Spurn point Lighthouse 3.3 miles. (F.O. Humber 0915/20 to Adty.)

Stromness — Entrance from Westward is closed. (A.C.O.S. 0415/20 to Adty.)

Scapa — A/C possibly minelaying sighted over Flow at 0112/20. Mines reported dropped at Hoy Mouth. Movement in Flow stopped until Sweep carried out. (A.C.O.S. 0442/20 to Adty) (A.C.O.S. 2101/20 to C.S.18) My 1445/20 (See Air) Probable this was also a mine (A.C.O.S. 2025/22)

F.D. — CACHALOT reports FD 24 completed (V.A.S. 0756/20 to Adty.)

SN 2. — D.3. in INGLEFIELD, ECHO, ECLIPSE, ESCAPADE to arrive Port Z.A by 0700/21. A/A Cruisers Escort not available (C. in C., H.F.1004/20 to RAML)

Milford Haven — Port open. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1012/20 to Adty.) No mines detonated today. Port will be closed from Sunset tonight until 1100/21. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1825/20 to Adty.)

SN 14
SN 17
SN 10 — Proposed sailing dates: SN 14/26 August SN 17/1st Sept., SN 10/10 Sept. (R.A.M.L. 1852/20 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.8.1940.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Dunkirk	a.m./20. One M/V under way outside harbour steering S.W. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1327/20) At 0030/20 in 56° N., 10° 30' E., one stationary M/V about 2000 tons (H.Q.B.C 1559/20)
Calais	At 1300/20, PRU Sortie shows a Boom across entrance of Calais Harbour. (PIU 1628/20)
2 Destroyers and 1 U-Boat	2 destroyers and 1 submarine bearing 160° 10 miles course 360° my position 55° 30' N 5° 31' E., (A/C 220 Sqdn. 0850/20 to No. 18 R/C Group H.Q.) Destroyers large, possible MAAs class, and submarine very large. (C. in C., Rosyth 1502/20 to Adty)
French Fishing Boats	At 1229/20 in 48° 21' N., 14° 10' W., A/C sighted 9 French Fishing-Boats; and at 1741/20 in 48° 33' N., 12° 49' W., sighted 4 more. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q. 2200/20 to Adty.)
HIPPER ESTHER THORDEN	From Dutch source Helsingfors graded D.4 (1) Finnish ESTHER THORDEN left Petsamo 1/8 was stopped 2/8 a few hours by heavy cruiser believed ADMIRAL HIPPER with 4 aircraft on board. (11) Prize crew took THORDEN to Tromso.
Invasion of Iceland- Rumour	(111) At Tromso German vessels were unloading large quantities of skis and ammunition while troops were constantly arriving and being sent north. (1v) Informant learnt that these preparations were for invasion of Iceland where small resistance was expected. (N.A. Stockholm. 2325/20)
GNEISENAU	At 0030/20 in Floating Dock outside breakwater at Kiel (H.Q.B.C.0248/21)
SCHARNHORST	At 0030/20 anchored off Torpedo Boat Harbour at Kiel (H.Q.B.C. 0248/21)
Kiel	One cruiser and one destroyer anchored in stream ~~xx~~ N. of GNEISENAU, and two destroyers further North (H.Q.B.C. 0248/21)

MOST SECRET

20.8.1940.
Tuesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoy C.E. 9. — Regret there is not sufficient escort to sail convoy to-day. Propose delay sailing for 24 hours. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1343/20 to Adty.)

Convoys

OB 201 — Sailed 1327/20 escort WESTCOTT, GLADIOLUS, (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1341/20)

TC 7 — Instructions. Ocean escort REVENGE OTTAWA (D.O.D. (F) 1919/20)

CE 9 — Sailing is to be postponed 24 hours (D.O.D. (H) 1437/20)

SL 44 — Extract from Convoy sailing telegram. (D.T.D. 1040/20)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.8.1940.
Tuesday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

CLAN MAPHEE	(Torpedoed 16/8) Now known to have sunk. 41 survivors. (D.S. 350)
RADAMES	From Gibraltar, not arrived Cape Town. (S.O.I. Capetown 1108/20 to Adty.)
NORTHUMBERLAND	From U.K., not arrived Cape Town. (S.O.I. Capetown 1108/20 to Adty.)
TREMINIARD	From U.K., not arrived Durban. (S.O.I. Capetown 1108/20 to Adty.)
SYLVAFIELD	(Torpedoed 15/8) Had fallen behind Convoy H.X. 62 (D.T.D. 1600/20)
OSIRIS	Submarine. My 0400/20. Engine defect. Consider inadvisable to proceed Malta. Am returning Alexandria (OSIRIS 2000/20 to Capt. S.I.)
DELAMBRE	(7032 tons, British) Rio de Janeiro 30/6 for Liverpool. Overdue (Lloyds 19/8)
SEA GLORY	(British 1964 tons) Fowey 5/7 for Philadelphia Overdue (Lloyds 19/8)
GRACEFIELD	(British 4631 tons) Montevideo 6/7 for Freetown & London. Overdue (Lloyds 19/8)
TELA	(Dutch 3777 tons) Rosario 5/7 for Holyhead Overdue. (Lloyds 19/8)

MOST SECRET

20.8.1940.
Tuesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Force H. — HOTSPUR, ENCOUNTER, GREYHOUND, GALLANT left Gibraltar at 0215 to rejoin Force H (N.O.I.C. Gib. 0110/20, S.O. (1) Gib. 0330/20)

Operation HATS — Re 0016/19. and 2004/19. Additional destroyer escort not being available intend ROYAL SCOTSMAN should remain with main body arriving Gibraltar (date) Operation HATS to start (date) (S.O. Force H. 2018/20 to Admty., C. in C., Med. R.A.A. in ILLUSTRIOUS)

South Atlantic

DORSETSHIRE to dock — C. in C., E.I. 0756Z/19. My 1500/12 paras 3 and 4. DORSETSHIRE is now required to escort transport ORION for last part of passage Cape and should arrive Cape p.m. 30 or a.m. 31. After 36 hours at Simonstown consider DORSETSHIRE should arrive Durban 4/9 and dock for 6 days before dock is required by ROYAL SOVEREIGN. Request your remarks and also proposals for docking of DRAGON and SUMATRA assuming latter arrives Capetown 2/9 or 3/9. (C. in C., S.A. 0940/20 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown)

EMPRESS OF CANADA — Propose to retain her to sail in W.S. 2 A in view of destination of troops being Egypt. (N.O.I/C Simonstown 0955/20 to Adty.

RADAMES / NORTHUMBERLAND — from- Gibraltar } Overdue at
from U.K. } Capetown.

TREMINIARD — from U.K., not arrived Durban. (S.O(I) . Capetown 1108/20)

Conditions at Dakar — Information from master of Dutch SS ROLF 3 or 4 submarines and 2 destroyers (X112, X 113) in Dakar 30/7. He was told rudder and port propeller of RICHELIEU were damaged. American and Japanese ships were coming and going freely. Italian prize SS SEMIEN had been released and was discharging cargo. He saw 2 German aircraft leave 29/7 or 30/7 and was told on good authority they took back internees, leaving no German observer behind. Food situation bad. (S.O. (1) Freetown 1815/20)

My 1500/12.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.8.1940.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic- Contd.

My 1500/12. Prolong your patrol and proceed as are visite to R.V. with SUMATRA and ORION in 9° 15' 0° 40' W., at (date & time) ORION's route to Capetown.

ORION sails from Freetown (date & time) speed of advance 15 knots. You are to relieve SUMATRA as escort at R.V. and escort ORION to Capetown, increasing to best possible speed.

On relief by DORSETSHIRE, SUMATRA proceed Lobito for (? fuel) (C. in C., S.A. 1927/20)

Mediterranean

Reserve of Stores — Further to his 2321/15 re common reserve of stores. Adoption of proposal advanced by the Services and Malta Govt. essential to efficiency of the fortress (N.O.I.C. Malta 1033/20)

Mines off Alexandria — Since 12/8 2 no moored mines swept 320° Ras El Tin Light 14 miles; owing to deep water c clearance will take several days. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria 1211/20, 1712/22)

PORQUAL — Orders to leave patrol and return to Alexandria (Capt. S.I. 1834/20)

OSIRIS — Returning to Alexandria with defects. (OSIRIS 2000/20)

Operation HATS — Arrangements for Force F and VALIANT (S.O. Force H. 2020/20) See Mediterranean Volume.

Air Raid on Malta — Slight damage to Hal Far and considerable damage at Luga aerodrome by 2 formations of about 5 enemy bombers accompanied by approx. 20 fighters (H.Q. Malta 1605/20 Governor 2145/20)

Air Raid on Tobruk — Night 19/20. One Bomber attacked naval oil tanks and jetties at Tobruk. Bombs hit objectives but results unobserved. (H.Q.R.A.F. , M.E. 1645/20)

/Evacuation....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.8.1940.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Evacuation — of families from Egypt. Re Transport (Movements M.E. 1700/20, 2324/20)

Italian M.V. Sunk — OSIRIS reports sinking 3000 ton merchant ship in 51° 41° N., 18' E., 12 miles on 15/8. (C. in C., Med. 2211/20)

SS ATTIKI — (Greek) Press report that Italians have released her at Palermo. Expected to reach Piraeus today. Italians have kept part of cargo, including sugar and metals which had been loaded at Lisbon (DS 351)

As from 1200/20 the Mediterranean Light Force will be reorganised as follows. V.A. J.C. Tovey, C.B.D.S.O. will assume title "Vice Admiral Light Force and Second in Command Mediterranean Fleet" short title "V.A.L.F". ORION and SYDNEY will form the 7th C.S. and with the destroyer Flotilla will be under direct command and administration of V.A.L.F. KENT, GLOUCESTER and LIVERPOOL will form the 3rd C.S. under R.A. E. de F. Renouf C.V.O. Flag in KENT. Title V.A.D. lapses. (C. in C., Med. 1504/19)

Italian Action — Turkish steamer from Istanbul to Alexandretta was arrested by 2 t.b's and taken to Rhodes, being released after 14 hours on orders from Rome. Turks have reliable information that Dornier aircraft, probably 12, have been sent to Rhodes. (N.A. Angora 1221/20)

Torpedoing of HMLE — No British destroyers were patrolling off Hydra within close distance of shore on 27/7 or at any other time. British warships are fully within their rights in making passage through territorial waters, but have orders to remain outside until in pursuit of enemy or unless navigational considerations make it desirable thus no question of carrying out patrols within Greek territorial waters. (C. in C., Med. 1115/20 to Minister, Athens)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.8.1940.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Air Operations

Daily operational summary (Air H.Q. Aden 1805/20)

China

Re aircraft co-operation against raiders in Indian Ocean, A.O.C. Far East points out great assistance which could be given by Hudsons based on Singapore if they were allowed use of landing grounds in Sumatra for operations. Request information whether policy in regard to N.E.I. would allow arrangements there accordingly for use only in such operations. (C. in C., China 0801zx/20 to Admty.)

America & West Indies

DESPATCH

Leave Kingston 23/8 and proceed via coast of Colombia to Curacao arriving p.m. 25. Show yourself in daylight off Puerto Colombo where German ship HELGOLAND is reported to be displaying signs of activity. Leave Curacao so as to arrive Kingston 29/8. (C. in C., A.W.I. 1020/20 to DESPATCH)

Australia & New Zealand

U.S. 4.
CANBERRA

My 2011/19. C. in C., India has agreed to hold contents of U.S. 4. Arrangements for embarkation of troops and sailing should proceed with as little delay as possible. (D.O.D. (F) to A.C.N.B. & N.Z.N.B. 1037/20)
My 0820/18. Completion of defect in CANBERRA delayed. Intend to proceed with arrangements assuming U.S. 4. leaves Wellington (date) Admty. 2011/19. This delay will not necessitate postponement of U.S. 5. (A.C.N.B. 0145Z/20)

TURAKINA
Raider

Steamship TURAKINA, 9691 tons, gunned in position 38° 27' S., 167° 35' E., at 0658/20. D/F bearing telefunken jamming also obtained. Commodore, N.Z. Sqdn., in ACHILLES proceeding from Wellington (N.Z.N.B., 0835Z/20) Bound for Wellington from Sydney. Gunned by surface raider at 0703Z/20. (A.C.N.B. 1225/Z/20)

/MANOORA.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.8.1940.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia & New Zealand, Contd.

MAROORA	escorting STRATHALLAN (with troops to singapore) as far as Banda Strait (A.C.N.B. 0145Z/20, 0635/Z/21)
ACHILLES	Left Wellington 1005/20 with C.O.N. Z. Squadron for Tascad patrol (S.O. (1) Wellington 1042Z/20)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.8.1940.
Tuesday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

HELGOLAND

at Puerto Colombia. Reported to be showing signs of activity. (C. in C., A.W.I. 1021/20)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

SEMIEN
Tanker

See South Atlantic (Dakar)
V.C. Susak reports Italian tanker 1515 tons name unknown destination suggest Libya left Fiume 1100/19 with cargo petrol (D.D.I.C. 1955/20 to C. in C., Med.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.8.1940.
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

~~Submarines~~ Ships Attacked

LEONIDAS M. VATIAS

Sunk after dark 20/8 about 100 miles northward and westward from 55° N., 10° W., 20 (? 48) picked up 2 survivors (ARROW 2010/22)

Submarines Reported

0001

Reliable report that enemy U-Boat was in 38° N., 22° 40' W at 0001/20 (F.O.C.N.A. 0138/21 to ENCHANTRESS etc.,)
Information received from Captain of Port B.2. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1550/20) Information was obtained from Panamanian SS LOIDA (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1100/22)

Estimated dispositions

1 in 31° 15' N., 13° 2' W. at 1925/19.
Possibly 1 Italian 330' W.of Azores at 2200/18.
Possibly 1 also Italian 6 miles off South Coast of San Miguel Island Azores 2100/18)
1 probably German last reported in about 40° N: 20° W. at 1913/18.
1 in Western Approaches
4 in N.W. Approaches
1 W. of Flannen Islands outward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1204/20)

Submarines Attacked

0856

By aircraft 55.18 N., 542 E. with dive bombs, no hits. (Donibristle 0856/20) Salvo bombs 40 yards S beam, submarine probably damaged. (A/C 220 Sqdn., 0950/20 Submarine submerged, 2 destroyers course and speed 260° 15 knots. (A/C 230 Sqdn., 1005/20) My 1005, submarine surfacing periodically, one M.L. astern enemy's course and speed 010° 12 knots. (A/C 220 Sqdn., 1100/20) My 0850, am returning to base. Position course and speed of enemy is 55.42 N., 5.48 E., 010°, 12 knots (A/C 220 Sqdn., 1130/20) My 1130 enemy has altered course to 180°., speed 12 knots. (A/C 220 Sqdn., 1131/20)

U-Boat sunk by CACHALOT

Have sunk enemy submarine in 47° 2' N., 4° 49' W., heading L'orient. No survivors (CACHALOT 0334/20)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.8.1940.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Troop Movements in Norway

Low graded reports are being received which suggest that a troop movement towards the North of Norway is taking place. This movement would be consistent with preparations for an invasion of Iceland.

Four destroyers sailed from Portsmouth today to reinforce Western Approaches Command.

At 1050 an aircraft on patrol sighted, 70 miles off the Danish coast, 4 destroyers escorting a merchant ship, with an aircraft apparently on A/S patrol with the vessels. The aircraft attacked with bombs but no damage was observed. During the attack, A.A. fire which was light and inaccurate, appeared to come from the merchant ship; the destroyers did not appear to fire.

Attacks were made on some merchant vessels, but near misses only obtained, by a striking force sent out to locate the above enemy force.

British Air Activity

All night operations by Bomber Command last night were cancelled owing to cloud and rain.

Enemy Air Activity

Attacks on U.K. by German Air Force lately have been directed against aerodromes and reporting system of R.A.F. It would appear that immediate aim is to obtain air superiority over Great Britain by use of short range bombers and fighters, relying upon greater numbers to exhaust our fighter defences. (Air Min D.S. 398)

Enemy activity today was mainly by single aircraft. In addition to attacks on aerodromes there was some indiscriminate bombing and machine gunning of civilians.

/There were.....

MOST SECRET

21.8.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

There were spasmodic raids at Hull throughout the day. Bombs were dropped at Skegness, Bridlington and Norwich. At Skegness Training Establishment (H.M.S. ROYAL ARTHUR) about 900 chalets are uninhabitable from bombing and a third of the camp is out of action

A convoy was attacked off Withersea and some ships were attacked, but were not damaged off the North Stack and Smalls.

The Netlayer KYLEMORE was bombed and sunk at Harwich. At Southampton, a dredger was sunk clear of the fairway.

Eastleigh aerodrome was bombed but no damage was done.

Mining

A mine was exploded off the Humber today.

Milford Haven was open during daylight.

Mediterranean

Air Raids on Gibraltar

Thre were two air raids on Gibraltar last night, by a single Italian aircraft, one of which was shot down by A/A fire. No damage was caused, except superficial damage to a tug.

Operation by Light Forces in Mediterranean.

V.A. Light Forces, Medtn. in ORION with LIVERPOOL and 6 destroyers is covering the passage of 3 merchant ships from Istanbul to Alexandria. NUBIAN, MOHAWK, HERO and HOSTILE were detached at dusk to proceed to Malta for onward passage to Gibraltar for Operation HATS.

Air Raid on Alexandria

At 2200/21 slight temporary damage to one aircraft and W/T.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.8.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

French Ships — Your 1303/20. British manned CHEVREUL and CAPRICIEUSE are to be brought forward for service as soon as possible and sailed for Tobermory to work up. (D.O.D. H. 1017/21 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

Defence of U.K.

Nore Command — No air R/C during night. CAMBIEN, destroyers, and corvettes keep steam at half an hours notice till further orders. (C. in C., Nore 0411/21) My 0411. Conditions now normal. Ships revert to usual notice for steam. (C. in C., Nore 0735/21)

Chatham A/A Defences — A112/21/8. 1335/19. The mounting of U.P. Weapons at Chatham would necessitate creation of Prohibited Area for Fighters under 400 feet. Such restriction undesirable in this busy sector. (Air Ministry 1910/21 to Adty.)

Movements

Nore — Night disposition 21/22. (C. in C., Nore 0800/21)

HOOD — My 1301/20. Anticipate complete and unbasin HOOD about 1930/24. (A.S.Rosyth 1117 21 to B.C.I.)

ROCHESTER — Your 2326/20. Passed Duncansby Head 14 knots. (ROCHESTER 1445/21 to C. in C., W.A.)

Dover — Patrols for night 21/22. (V.A. Dover 1651/21)

Rosyth — Movements for tonight 21/22. (C. in C., Rosyth 1800/21)

Western Approaches Destroyers — Adty. 1504/19. SABRE, SCIMITAR, SHIKARI, and SKATE will sail for Plymouth p.m. 21st. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1903/21 to A.C.W.A) (C. in C., W.A. 2009/21 to VANSITTART , VOLUNTEER)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.8.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME CONTAINS

Operations

Operation HATS — My 1753/20. Delayed 24 hours by weather. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1005/21 to Adty.) My 2004/19 Owing to weather it has been impossible to move VALIANT ~~to~~ Liverpool. Sailing of all forces delayed 24 hours until 22/8. (D.O.D. 1115/21 to C. in C., H.F.) My 2032/18 and F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1753/20 Amend Times for R/V. Position B. 0600/23 Position C. 1800/23. (C. in C., W.A. 1441/21 to C. in C., H.F.) Intend to sail Force 1430/23. Speed 14½ knots. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1703/21 to Adty.)

Iceland — Adty's 1304/20. (A/S Escort for ROYAL ULSTERMAN) escort ANTHONY and AMAZON (C. in C., W.A. 1442/21 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

Convoy H.X. (H.M.Brigade) — To be sailed 22/8 for Scapa. C. in C., H.F. and C. in C., W.A. are requested to provide 2 escorts each. (D.O.D. H. 2141/21 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

Submarines

Netherlands Submarine O22 — Orders for patrol (Capt. S. 9th S.F. 0937/21 to submarine O22)

In view of increasing length of dark hours submarines on passage to and from patrol are normally to proceed diving by day unless escorted. Normally bombing restrictions or sanctuaries should only be imposed to cover that portion of the passages of submarines that are near submarines bases. Submarines should leave their bases just before dark and arrive at their bases near sunrise. Bombing restrictions are not normally to be imposed to cover patrol areas. (V.A.S. 1031/21 to Capts. S. H.F. and Harwich, Neg. S. 7.)

Anti-U-Boat Submarine Patrol — My 1921/20. Submarines are not to proceed until further orders but are to be at 4 hours notice. (V.A.S. 1116/21 to S.2, S.3, and S.9.

Positions — For following 24 hours at 0600/23 in Area B. (V.A.S. 1624/21) In Area A. (V.A.S. 1627/21)

Adty's 1833/7/7 — Greenock Area Movements (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1710/21 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.8.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

E-Boats

Lorient

Four E-Boats in Harbour off the T.B. Station. (PRU St Eval 2230/21)

Two E-Boats bearing 160° 2 miles from my position 50° 24' N., 2° 51' W., (VANSITTART 0235/21)

British Air Activity

Fishing Vessels

About 0900/21. in 61° 35' N., 4° 40' E, aircraft bombed 6 small fishing vessels Bombs fell within 25 yards. (Donibristle 1125/21)

4 Destroyers and 1 M/V

At 1050/21 in 55° 45' N., 5° 50' E., aircraft bombed one M/V escorted by 4 Destroyers. 3 bombs dropped, falling 100 yards astern, and 10 yards ahead respectively. No damage observed. (Donibristle 1445/21) (Donibristle 1018/21 to Adty.)

2 M/V's

At 1415/21 in 54° 53' N., 6° 27' E., aircraft bombed 2 M/V's of about 1000 tons steering 315° at 7 knots. 24 bombs dropped and 4 near Misses claimed. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1810/21) At 1500/21 in 55° 15' N., 6° 20' E. aircraft attacked 2 M/Vs steering 180° at 8 knots 3 near misses claimed. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 2104/21)

Balloon Ships

Your 1925/20. For consideration that Balloon Ships should fly balloons always unless further experience shows they are always shot down, so that balloons will be flying when absence of wind makes Kites impracticable. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1157/21 to Adty.)

My AP/340, 341 and 342 of 20/8. Operations ordered for night 20/21 and postponed are to be carried out tonight 21/22. (H.Q.C.C. 1305/21 to 16 Group)

Air Attacks and M/C

Programme for 22/8. (H.Q.C.C. 1530/21 to Adty.)

/SA 3.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.8.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity- Contd.

3A. 3. — Not being flown this evening owing to unavailability of aircraft (C. in C., Rosyth 1612/21 to Adty.)

Air Searches — For 22/8 (C. in C., Rosyth 1850/21)

Rescue of A/C Crews in water — Devices and arrangements. (Air Ministry 2230/21 to Air Commands)

Enemy Air Activity

SLIEVE DONARD — Attacked 45' N.W. of North Stack. 'Senforth Radio 1319/21)

ROYAL ARTHUR (Training Establishment at Skegness) — Attacked early p.m. 21st. 3 killed and 33 wounded, 8 seriously. (ROYAL ARTHUR 1405/21 to Adt.) (O.C.W. Immingham 1416/21 to C.E. in C.,) About 30 bombs dropped, about 900 chalets uninhabitable, water mains and sewage pump-house damaged, and about one third of Camp out of action. Rough Estimate of damage £40,000. (O.C.W. Immingham 1955/21 to C.E. in C.,)

Smalls Light — Bomb dropped (?2) miles N. of Smalls. (CISCAR 1430/21 to Adty.) Trawler LT 410 reports being attacked by 3 aircraft off Smalls today. 6 bombs and Aerial torpedoes dropped. Skipper wounded. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven. 1831/21 to Adty.)

ANTOLIN — Bombed at 50° 43' N., 6° 48' W., at 1653, 1715, 1726, and 1754/21. Aircraft disappeared at 1807/21. No damage. (Portishead Radio 1653/21, Lands End 1726, 1754 and 1807/21)

Lowestoft — Attacked by single Bomber at 1612/21. 12 civilian casualties (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1730/21 to Adty.)

Eastleigh — Bombed by single aircraft this p.m. No damage. (R.A.N.A.S. 1808/21 to Adty.)

Llanreath — Fire still burning. Unlikely out tonight Hope save 8 tanks. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1812/21 to Adty.)

/KYLEMORE.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.8.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity- Contd.

EXMOOR — Netlayer Sunk. (21/8) in Harwich (DS 352 on the authority of D.C.- No signal)

Predcer — Sunk by bombing today at Southampton, clear of the fairway. (Air. Min. DS 399)

Mining

ESCAPADE
ECLIPSE — Expect arrive with ECLIPSE 0830. (ESCAPADE 0500/21 to F.O. Minelaying)

Humber — Red Mine exploded by LL Trawlers at 236° Chequer Shoal Buoy 9 cables. (F.O. Humber 1115/21 to Adty.)

Milford Haven — Port is open. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1152/21 to Adty.)

DS 34 — An escort is available 0600 to 1200/23. (C. in C., Nore 1501/21 to D.20) Six Blenheims of 16 Group will escort Minelayers from 0600 until 1000/23. H.Q.F.C. is requested to provide protection from 1730 to 2000/23 and from 1000/23 till minelayers arrive in Humber. Code word PARTS. (C. in C. Nore 2236/21 to D. 20 and H.Q.F.C.) Reference 1155/21. Regret, owing to distance from land, protection cannot be afforded by Fighter Command. (H.Q. Fighter Command 2250/21 to Adty.)

Daily Search Between X & Y — Daily Mine Search to be discontinued. This will be searched periodically at same time as 117. QZS (C. in C., Nore, 1619/21 to F.O.I.C. Harwich)

Exchanges of Drifters — Your 1341/10/8. Names of drifters and Trawlers exchanged. My 2255/15. A/P drifters LICHEN and VERNAL transferred from Brightlingsea to Sheerness as Leaders of Night Sweeping Units. (C. in C., Nore, 2159/21 to Adty.)

SN 14 — R.A.M.L.'s 1852/20. It is improbable that destroyer screen can be provided before 27/8. (C. in C., H.F. 1723/21 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.9.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Havre Trouville	At 0700/21 no sign of activity or shipping. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 0900/21)
4 Destroyers & 1 Transport	At 0925/21 in 56° 35' N., 5° 28' E., A/C report. See Air. (A/C 220 Sqdn. 0925, 0930, 0945, 1002 and 1010/21.
Lorient	Photographs show 3 submarines; one alongside Hulk at T.B. station and 2 further up river. Also 17 trawlers at Quai Kersmam (PRU St. Eval 2230/21)
	At 1145/21 in 49° 26' N., 2° 50' E., 6 warships believed destroyers and 10 to 12 small M/V's all anchored in line close inshore. (H.Q.B.C. 0210/22)

Shipping

Convoys. Dividing Line proposed	Between Duncansby Head and May L. impossible to prevent them passing one another during dark hours, proposed to institute dividing line (C. in C., Rosyth 2325/21)
SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA	French. To be stored and victualled to capacity and sailed for Clyde. Special charts will be issued. (D.O.D. (H) 1927/21 to C. in C., Portsmouth)
Convoys OB 21	Route after leaving B. (C. in C., W.A. 1448/21 to WANDERER)
HG 42	Extract from Convoy Sailing Telegram Escort ENCHANTRESS (D.T.D. 1235/21)
HX 67	Convoy sailing telegrams Escort LACONIA, EMERALD, (N.O.I.C. Halifax 0955/21)

1

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.8.1940.
Wednesday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

CIR. TH. ROE — My 1128/18. Arrived Cape Town (S.O.I. Capetown 1108/21 to D.N.I.)

TRENCHARD — My 1108/20. Arrived Durban. (S.O.I. Capetown 1108/21 to D.N.I.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.8.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Raider report — Report of doubtful reliability C.3 received from French source that German raider of high speed under very capable commander is due to leave Vigo in two or three days. (F.O.C.N.A. 0814/21, 1758/21 to ships on patrol).

Air raids on Gibraltar — 2 raids at 2320 and 0035 local time by single Italian aircraft, each dropped 4 heavy bombs first in harbour and later shot down by A.A. fire in sea, second on Upper Rock no damage (200 group 1709/21) except superficial damage to tug ST. OMAR (200 group 1709/21, F.O.C.N.A. 1724/21).

South Atlantic

DORSETSHIRE — Amendment to 1927/20 (C. in C., S.A. 0929/21).

NORSEMAN — Cable ship sailed from Rio de Janeiro pm/18 for 35.38 S. 55.18 W. due 23/8 (S.O.(I) Freetown 0925/21).

CHR. TH. ROE
TREMINHARD — (Reported overdue 18/8). Arrived Capetown.
(Reported overdue 20/8). Arrived Durban.
(S.O.(I) Capetown, 1108/21).

ASTURIAS, ORION (Troop Transport) — Arrived 21/8. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1311/21).

SUMATRA — Left 21/8 for Lobito on passage to Capetwon (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1721/21). Programme. To leave Capetown for Mauritius when ready for any escort of covering duty required. (S. in C., S.A. 1922/21).

Mediterranean

Operation by light forces — V.A. light forces left Alexandria am/20 with ORION, LIVERPOOL and 6 destroyers, passed Kaso Strait 0200/21 and proceeded to R.V. with 2 M.Vs from Istanbul near Doro Channel. Four destroyers H.M.S.'s NUBIAN, MOHAWK, HERO, HOSTILE part company with V.A. light forces outside Kithera Channel at dusk 21st and proceed to Malta to arrive 0800/22. For onward passage to Gibraltar for operation"HATS". V.A. light forces will cover passage of merchant ships to Alexandria. (C. in C., Medit. 1657/21).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

21.8.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (Contd.)

Summary of attacks on U-boats — My 2025/3, Summary of attacks on Italian U-boats. Written report of attacks no 2 and no 5 now received. Consider assessments should be amended to E and D respectively. (C. in C., Med. 2227/21).

A.A. guns — Reply to C. in C., Med. 1941/14. (D.T.S.D. 1106/21). see Mediterranean Volume.

Water Tankers — Asking whether 3 tankers available. Military authorities considering means of increasing water supply to western desert by sea transport from Alexandria to Mersa Matruh (P.S.T.O. Egypt 1014/21 to D. of S.T.).

Aircraft over Malta — 1517-1534, approx. 6 enemy aircraft flew over Malta from north at great height. No interception (H.Q., R.A.F. Malta 1605/21).

Air Operations — H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. operational summary no 72 (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1748/21).
21/8. One Sunderland patrolled North of Kithera covering Naval forces Aegean Sea. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1659/22).

Air Raid on Aden — 2200/21. Slight temporary damage to one aircraft and W/T. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1659/22)

Tankers from Rumania — Your 1945/16. Min. of Shipping has no suitable employment for these ships. Your telegram has been passed to C. in C., Med. (D.T.D. 1928/21 to N.A. Belgrade).

S.S. ITSUKUISHIMA
S.S. KARAGORDJE } Available for charter (D.T.D. 1934/21 to C. in C., Med.)

Alexandria Defence — Provision of balloons will be considered urgently. 36 kites being sent (D. of L.D. 2229/21).

Bosporus boom — Re (N.A. Angora 1218/21).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

21.8.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Suspicious Vessel. South of Madagascar

In 029°02' S. 041°15' E. STRATHNAVER sighted 1225Z/11 bearing 153° 9 miles a suspicious vessel course 230° speed slow 5 knots. 8 thousand tons, description. No national markings and wore no flag. Resembles SOPHIE RICKMERS or ENSRIFF in opinion of Master. visibility was very good. Ships known to have been in the vicinity do not appear to resemble this description. (C. in C., E.I., 0600Z/21). Master considered his passenger list too big to risk W/T report. At time sighted STRATHNAVER was 120 miles North of route given to her at Capetown and was cutting corner round Madagascar. Master admits he was off his route. (C. in C., E.I., 0602Z/21).

Haj Pilgrimage

Have provisionally arranged pilgrims' ships to sail in BN convoy. Re alternative of notifying enemy governments and securing safe conduct. (C. in C., E.I., 1050Z/21).

America & West Indies

U.S. destroyers

Your 1946/17 and my 1021/18. Canadian Govt. concur in your proposal. Arrangements. (C.N.S. Canada 1102/21 to Adty.)

New Zealand

Search for raider

My 0835Z/20 search by two flying boats between 034° 00' S. and 042° 00' S. and 171° 00' E. and 162° 00' E. carried out 21/8 has been negative. My A/A patrol in support to southward proceeding towards W. coast of Sound, West Africa. Appreciation 0730Z/21. Raiders can arrive near Jaguar Island 1930Z/21 or Cape Gabo 0730Z/22 or be on Sydney Auckland Trade Route.
Flying boat patrol will be carried out along Sydney Auckland Trade Route to 160° E. commencing dawn/22 with 2nd Flying boat as relief shadower if contact is made.
(N.Z.N.B. 0701Z/21 to A.C.N.B.)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

21.8.40.
Wednesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

LARENZ L.M.RUSS	Left Pasajes 19/8, cargo supposed fuel oil, destination unknown (V.C. San Sebastian, 1800/20).
USARAMO BRAKE NORD ATLANTIC ANTARKTIS	My tel. Aig. 17. Total Spanish coal taken USARAMO reported 850 tons. Tanker BRAKE has now discharged most lubricating oil mentioned in my 2046/1 and appears in ballast. NORD ATLANTIC, ANTARKTIS have been trying engines. Above particulars suggest plans for sailing. B two repeat B two. (Consul Vigo, 1646/21).
NORDENHAM	Pasajes 19/8 departure NORDENHAM with full cargo supposed to be of oil for an unknown destination. (V.C. San Sebastian, 1100/21).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

FRANCA FASSIO Left 21/8 for Genoa. (Barcelona 1613/21).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

21.8.40.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

1842 — 58°40' N. 4°18' W. by aircraft. Submarine crash dived on approx. course 300° (C. in C., Rosyth 1954/21, F.O. S/ms 1741/22).

2145 — 55°30' N., 6°40' W. by YEW CREST (YEW CREST 2145/21) WITCH, WANDERER to search. Aircraft co-operating weather permitting (Capt. A/S Belfast 2214/21). Searched for WITCH after having escorted S.S. DARLINGTON COURT 10 miles E. of position, am rejoining her now (HARVESTER 2331/21).

2009 — By D.F. 56°10' N. 12° W. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 2051/21).

19/8 — Vessel from Panama sighted s/m 38°0' N. 22°40' W. (A) (Consul, Lisbon, 1525/21).

1328 — 56°30' N. 16°30' W. Position very indefinite. A.1 (D.S. 352).

Estimated U/B dispositions

3 Italian working off the Azores and between Azores and Africa.
1 probably German last reported in about 40° N. 20° W. at 1913/18.
1 in Western Approaches.
4 in N.W. Approaches.
1 N. of Shetlands homeward bound.
(D.D.I.C. 1221/21).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

23.8.1940.
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

Enemy air activity was on a restricted scale today.

Convoy OA 203 was bombed off the Moray Firth about 2200/23. SS LLANISHEN and MAKALLA were sunk and BEACON GRANGE was damaged.

Three ships were attacked in St. George's Channel, but so far as is known only one was damaged.

During an attack on Cardiff Docks today SS ZYPENBERG was hit in dock, but only minor damage was caused.

Mining

Magnetic mines were laid last night off Lorient.

Enemy minelaying by aircraft last night is suspected in the Thames Estuary and up the coast to Flamborough Head, off the firth of Forth, and is known to have taken place north of Dundee.

Tees and Hartlepool were closed at 1032.

There appears to be an increasing tendancy for enemy mines to explode spontaneously. Six cases occurred today.

Mediterranean

HOSTILE Sunk

HOSTILE was sunk early thid morning 18 miles S.E. of Cape Bon whilst proceeding to Malta with MOHAWK, NUBIAN and HERO, to take part in Operation "HATS". The Board of Enquiry considered she was almost certainly mined. A floating mine was seen near HOSTILE after she was disabbd NUBIAN returned to Malta with defects, but she should be able to sail when JANUS arrives at Malta to replace HOSTILE.

/Destroyer Sweep.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

23.6.1940.
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean-Contd.

Destroyer Sweep

STUART, JUNO, ILEX, DIAMOND and WATERHEN left Alexandria this morning for a sweep along the North African coast, followed by a bombardment of Bomba seaplane base at 0200/24, returning under fighter protection p.m./24.

LADYBIRD left Mersa Matruk this morning to attack shipping at Bardia early tomorrow morning.

SYDNEY is at sea in support of these operations.

Air Raid on Alexandria

An air raid on Alexandria last night did little damage and caused no casualties.

Air Raid on Bomba

Bomba seaplane base was attacked last night.

Foreign Stations

Raider

The survivors of the Norwegian BEAULIEU which was sunk by a German merchant ship raider in the middle of the North Atlantic on 4/8 arrived at Gibraltar today in the SS. CYMBELINE.

Italian Cable

Cable ship MIRROR left Gibraltar this evening escorted by a trawler, to cut the Italian Las Palmas- St. Vincent cable.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

23.3.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

French Ships — Your 1637/22. French vessels detailed for A/S duties with British crews expected to complete fitting out on 29/3, 31/3, 3/9, 5/9 7/9, respectively are as follows:-
To Leith — CASTELNAU
NIVOSE
To Grimsby — TARTARIN
VENTOSE
MONIQUE CAMILLE
(D.M.S. 2087/23 to F.O.I.C. Southampton)

Defence of U.K.

Scarborough — N.O.I.C. Hartlepool reports laying of 5 Warheads at Scarborough completed and Station handed to Military. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1024/23 to C. in C., Rosyth)

Movements

C. in C., W.A. 1521/23 / F.O.C.N.P. 2025/23 & 2345/23 — See Mediterranean (Operation Hats)

ROMNEY — C. in C. H.F. 1620/22. A/S Escort by Sunderland and later by Anson A/C as arranged. Fighter escort by Blenheim to Kinnaird Head and then by Hurricane for Spitfire A/C. (C. in C., Rosyth 0110/23 to C. in C., H.F.)

Nore Command — Disposition for night 23/24. (C. in C., Nore 0800/23 and 1924/23) Day Patrols and movements to 1200/24 (C. in C., Nore 1200/23)

CHITRAL — Passes Ailsa Craig at 1800/24 and through following positions. Speed 13 knots. (N.P.C. 1501/23 to Adty.)

Dover — Patrols for night 23/24. (V.A.Dover 1506/23)

DERBYSHIRE — Passes Ailsa Craig at 1600/24 and throug h following positions. Speed 13 knots (N.P.C. 1529/23 to Adty.)

/H. AMURA.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

23.8.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements-Contd.

RANPURA
CARNARVON CASTLE

My 1532/22. Sailings again postponed owing to weather. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1537/23 to Adty.) My 1532/22 Intend sail RANPURA for Clyde 1300/24 and CARNARVON CASTLE for Clyde 0600/26 (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1750/23)

Four Destroyers to Home Fleet

C. in C., Nore is to sail 4 destroyers to join C. in C., H.F. by 28/8. They will remain in H.F. about one month (V.C.N.S. 1555/23)

Orfordness

Movements for night 23/24 (A.C.O.S. 1604/23)

Portsmouth

Movements for night 23/24 (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1617/23)

WANDERER
HITCH

On completion of repairs and fuelling sail to join OB 202, passing through 56° N., 8° W., (Capt S/F Belfast 1805/23 to WANDERER)

Rosyth

Movements 23/8. (C. in C. Rosyth 1934/23 and 2023/23)

FORFAR
LAURENTIC

I.N.P. 19. FORFAR, LAURENTIC, and screen pass through 57° 33' N., 9° 22' W., at 0400/25, course 140° speed 14½ knots. FORFAR arrives Clyde 1930 (FORFAR 2140/23 to F.O.C.N.P.)

Operations

Submarine
Anti-U-Boat
Patrol

C. in C., W.A. 1854/22. Suggest that submarine patrolling West of St. Kilda proceeds to Rosemary Bank between passage of successive convoys. (V.A.S. 0428/23 to C. in C., H.F.)

Iceland

Sailed WORCESTERSHIRE, CILICIA and ROYAL ULSTERMAN escorted by ANTHONY and AMAZON. -ROYAL ULSTERMAN expected arrive Reykjavik 1300/26 (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1301/23 to Adty)

Your 1646/22. (Personnel of MANCHESTER CITY) Accommodation will be available (F.O.I.C Iceland 2340/23)

Your 1155/7. On and after 25/8, 40 lights round coast of Iceland will be extinguished. List follows by mail. (N.O.I.C. 1900/23 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

23.3.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

Convoy H.F. (H.M. Brigade)

My 1114/23 Weather still unsuitable. Intend sailing convoy less KARANJA 1600/24. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1610/23 to Adty)

Belfast A/S Patrol

MANCHESTER, WANDERER, WITCH and 18th D.F. less ANTHONY and AMAZON will act as Striking Force till further orders. (C. in C., W.A. 1713/23 to D.12.)

Lorient

Your 1233/23. Request immediate steps to bomb U-Boats in Lorient. (C. in C., W.A. 2008/23 to Adty.)

Floating Dock XII

Add to my 1924/23. Dock in 55° 30' N., 1° 30' W., Speed 3 knots Northwards. (C. in C., Rosyth 2146/23)

Submarines

C. in C., W.A's 2234/22. Consider my intention to send all available submarines to North Sea for anti-invasion patrols should stand. Doubt advisability of transferring more submarines now from North Sea to Bay of Biscay. FORTH is now preparing the 4 T class for Foreign Service and I would prefer she remain at Rosyth till 4 T class have sailed for Mediterranean CACHALOT will probably find Targets off Bordeaux. If she reports otherwise she will be ordered to patrol off Lorient. (V.A.S. 1124/23) Your 1124/23. Consider Lorient should have priority over Bordeaux at present in view of importance of anti-U-Boat Campaign. (C. in C., W.A. 2007/23 to V.A.S.)

Submarine Patrol off Hebrides

723. A.C., W.A., 1854/22 and your 0428/23. I should like one submarine off St. Kilda placed as in my 1919/13 and if you think Rosemary Bank likely to prove fruitful by all means put another one there. Please work in conjunction with A.C. W.A., to move either submarine as necessary to keep clear of convoys. Suggest submarines are escorted to Butt of Lewis to arrive there after dark and proceed independently thence to their area routed clear of convoys and remaining submerged by day. (C. in C., H.F. 1157/23 to F.O.S/M's)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

23.8.1940.
Friday

HOME CONTINENTS

Submarines-Contd.

Adty's 1033/7/7. (Operations outside Area A.)

Submarines in Western Approaches. (C. in C., W.A. 1705/23 to Adty.) Portsmouth. L.27 at 8 hours notice (C. in C., Portsmouth 1726/23) Greenock Area (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1746/23)

Positions

For 24 hours following 0600/24 in Area A. (V.A.S. 1709/23 and 2108/23) In Area B. (V.A.S. 1711/23)

Intend establishing following submarine patrols for the forthcoming dark night period.

2 in zone H, one in zone A 5, one in Skagerrak, 3 between zone E one zone C one 2 off Skudesness, 1 off Kors, 1 off Faleosen. (V.AS. 1736/23 to C. in C., H.F)

My 2238/11. not to C. in C., Western Approaches. UTMOST is to be temporarily attached to 7th S/M Flotilla until completion of defects in OBERON about 7th September and is then to be transferred to 6th S/M Flotilla. H.31 is to be transferred to 7th S/M Flotilla on completion of present stand off period. (V.A.S. 1737/23 to Adty.)

TRIDENT, TRIBUNE escorted by WHITE BEAR are to be sailed when ready, TRIDENT to patrol on a line 30 to 60 miles 270 degrees from St. Kilda, TRIBUNE to patrol inside 500 fathom line of Rosemary Bank. Object of S/M to sink enemy U-boats., Submarines are to be escorted to Butt of Lewis so as to arrive there after dark tomorrow Saturday and are then to proceed independently to their patrol positions diving by day. C. in C., Western Approaches is requested to keep V.A.S. informed in good time of movements of convoys that may affect these two submarines so that they can be moved as requisite. Submarines may be required to do about 14 days on patrol (V.A.S. 1908/23 to S. S.)

E-Boats

Boulogne

9 E-Boats at Quai Chanzy. (P.I.U. Wembly 1625/23) (Chathem A.C.H.Q. 1720/23 to Adty)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

23.8.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

Dortmund-Ems Canal — Between 0036 and 0407/23 aircraft bombed the railway over the Canal at 52° 17' N., 7° 33' E., and hit the Railway Track; and between 0905 and 1217/23 the N.E. end of the Waalhaven Railway Bridge over the Canal at 51° 59' N., 7° 39' E., was bombed and demolished. (H.Q.B.C. 0237/24)

Channel Islands — Early a.m./23, 8 Hampden aircraft attacked a large stationary vessel of Trawler class 4 miles West of Sark. One burst seen 300 yards from vessel. Also attacked a vessel lying between St. Michel Island and Lomelique, claiming one direct hit. (H.Q.B.C. 0237/24)

Dieppe — Quay and Warehouse at side of Harbour bombed and hit. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 0905/23)

Balloons — Daily operation Report as at 0700/23. (H.Q. Balloon Command 1040/23)

Balloon Barrage at Milford Haven — From 1/9 will be flown within the following Areas. (Air Ministry F.O. 6. 1321/23)

Rosyth — Air searches 24/8 (C. in C., Rosyth 1918/23)

Boulogne — At 1900/23. Aircraft attacked E-Boats and aircraft in Boulogne Harbour. Two hits claimed. Damage unknown (Chathem A.C.H.Q. 0236/24)

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy TOPAZ — Have fired on aircraft which dropped one bomb at 58° 13' N., 2° 24' W., (JASPER 0035/23)(FOWEY 0041/23)

Convoy AGENT — One aircraft shadowing convoy at 53° 12' N., 1° 8' E., (COSSACK 0800/23) (WOLFHOUND 0806/23)

Am being shadowed in 52° 3' N., 1° 35' E. (MALLARD 1905/23)

Convoy OA 203.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

23.6.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

Convoy OA 203

BEACON GRANGE
British 1,115 tons

HAKALLA
British 6677 tons

LLANISHEN
British 5053 tons

Aircraft bombing at 58° 17' N., 2° 27' W. (LEITH 2203/ and 2204/23) Two ships hit. On fire. (LEITH 2214/23) Request Tugs (LEITH 2226/23) Am sending Tugs. (A.C.O.S. 2238/23) Your 2226 SALVAGE KING and fleet Tug BUCCANEER being sent (A.C.O.S.2234/23) Your 2232. BEACON GRANGE and HAKALLA on fire unable to steam. Do not appear sinking (LEITH 2324/23 to A.C.O.S.) Proceed with convoy. I am picking up survivors and standing by BEACON GRANGE (LEITH 2351/23 to HIBISCUS)

BEACON GRANGE on fire. HAKALLA hit and sunk. Tug MARAUDER following from Kirkwall. (A.C.O.S. 0120/24 to C. in C., W.A.) Have ordered BEACON GRANGE to proceed to Scapa as she can now steam. Fire gaining, steering gear useless. Have 61 survivors of whome 16 injured, 4 seriously. 36 are missing. (LEITH 0218/24 to A.C.O.S.) LLANISHEN also sunk. BEACON GRANGE in tow of BUCCANEER and SALVAGE KING for Kirkwall. 72 survivors from HAKALLA and 28 from LLANISHEN landed Lyness. (A.C.O.S. 1057/24 to C. in C., W.A.) Join SALVAGE KING towing BEACON GRANGE to Kirkwall (A.C.O.S. 1154/24 to MARAUDER)

FLORENCE HENRIETTA

Reports attacked by 2 aircraft with 13 or 14 bombs at 1440/23 in 52° 16' N., 5° 19' W No casualties, no damage (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2335/23 to Adty)

KYLEMORE

Reports attacked by three aircraft with 4 bombs and M/G at 1435/23 in 52° 9' N., 5° 19' W., One wounded (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2231/23 to Adty.)

OVERTON

British 436 tons. Reports bombed and machine gunned off Bardsey Island p.m. to day. Damage not yet now (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2355/23 to Adty.)

Cardiff

Air Raid night 22/23. 7 to 8 Bombs in Docks and adjacent land. SS KYLEMORE slightly damaged in Queen Alexandra Dock, and 3 minor casualties and very slight damage in 2 small craft. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1800/23 to Adty.)

/Mining.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

23.8.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Tees — Tees and Hartlepool closed. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1032/23 to Adty)

BG 34 — Unsuitable conditions for PLOVER and VAN DER ZAAN to take part today. Intend TRIVET BANK escorted by IMPULSIVE and ECK to mail as in my 1701/21 and my 1901/22 to lay a shortened line if practicable. (D.20. 1010/23 to C. in C., Nore.) Air escort and Fighter protection as in my 2036/21m but dates 2 days later. Code word PARTS. (C. in C., Nore 2229/23 to D.20)

FD 25 — PORPOISE leaves Immingham 1400/26. Route (S.6 1257/23 to Adty)

SN 14 — Cancel my 2231/14. Propose to carry out SN 14 amended as follows. (R.A.M.L. 1431/23 to Adty.)

SN Operations
Sailing Dates — Your 1852/20. Concur, subject to availability of destroyer screen. (D.D.O.D. H. 1529/2 to R.A.M.L.)

Paddle
Minesweepers — Will be operating 25 and 26/8 within 3 miles each side of 56° 36' N., Request Fighter cover from 1100 to 2000/25 and from 0800 to 1700/26. Code Word PADDLE. (C. in C., Rosyth 1800/23 to Adty.)

Enemy Intelligence

At 0310/23 in 52° 50' N., 4° 40' E., two large ships with 10 craft larger than Trawlers, all anchored. (H.Q.B.C. 1702/23)

Norwegian Coast — Between Gryte and Hinne, one M/V 3000 tons. In Vaago Fiord one M/V 3000 tons. At Harstad one M/V 3000 tons. One M/V 800 tons leaving S.W. corner off Rolla. (Denibristle Reed. 1340/23)

Bordeaux
La Rochelle
La Pallice } — No significant change in shipping. (P.I.U. Wembley 1904/23)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

23.8.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoys No 7	In order to economise A/S escorts and on account of other urgent commitments, arrival of TC 7 at R.V. "A" is to be delayed 24 hours. (D.O.D. (F) 1316/23) Sailing date and arrangements (F.O.C. 3 B.S. -1109/23, D.O.D. (H) 2311/23)
WN 59	54° 18' N., 0° 14' W (WOLSEY 0410/23)
BAB 3	Names of ships. Code word ROBIN. date of leaving Clyde. (D.O.D. (H) 1946/23)
HS	Route after parting with OB 204 is not to be divulged to vessels of HS before sailing (D.O.D. (H) 2107/23)
Forecast of Convoy Sailings	FS 63- 69., FN 63- 69., Escorts. (C. in C., Rosyth 1650/23)
Convoy Dividing line	Position of line which has been instituted. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1641/23)
DUCHESS OF RICHMOND	Cancel my 1635/20. DUCHESS OF RICHMOND speed 16 knots carrying 1600 service personnel for Canada will be ready to sail from Liverpool on 30/8. C. in C., W.A. is to sail her escorted by RESTIGOUCHE and one other destroyer to meet HX 67. When met LACONIA and RESTIGOUCHE will escort DUCHESS OF RICHMOND to Halifax. (A.C.N.S. (H) 2328/23)

1

MOST SECRET

For Diary

23.8.1940.
Friday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

VESCA — Left Singapore 0659/6 August. Overdue Cape Town (S.O.I. Capetown 1048/23 to Adty)

PERSAUDER — From Batavia. Not arrived Cape Town (S.O.I. Capetown, 1048/23 to Adty)

RUGELEY — My 1013/22. Arrived at Cape Town. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1048/23 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

23.8.1940.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace" (Force H)

Preliminary information (A.C.N.S. (H) 1654/23) (1752/24) See Operation Volume.
Ammunition (A.C.N.S. (F) 1945/23.
Aircraft (D.N.A.D. 1905/23)

CUMBERLAND — Ammunition (A.C.N.S. (F) 1948/23)

North Atlantic

SS. BRAILIAN Sunk by Raider 4/8. — F.O.C.N.A. 1728/23. See Supplementary Diary. 4/8.

MIRROR (Cable Ship) To cut Italian Cable. — Your 1349/10. Cable ship MIRROR has instructions from U.K to pick up Italian cable to its capacity viz about 150 miles after cutting Italian Las Palmas.-- St. Vincent Cable.
In view of force H commitments no destroyers can be spared but trawler can be sent as escort for cutting operation. Picking up cable would be a slow job for which I do not consider trawler sufficient escort in view of the possibility of raider being at large. Therefore intend to confine operation to cutting cable in approximate position 027° 58' N., 016° 05' W. for which purpose cable ship MIRROR will sail 23/8 and return to Gibraltar on completion. (N.O.i/c Gib. 1210/23 to Adty.)

MIRROR left Gib. 2130/23 escorted by STELLA SIRIUS (N.O.I.C. Gib. 2122/23)

AGUILA — Your 1525/9. Transport of Polish troops to United Kingdom, and your 1907/21 return of survivors of BRITISH PRIDE. Have requested M. of S. to order AGUILA to Lisbon on return from Canary Is. to embark passengers. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1645/23 to Adty.)

Submarines in Cadiz — Report regarding enemy submarines in Cadiz not true. A.I. (N.A. Madrid 1305/23)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

23.8.1940.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

French Submarine Ajax	Said to be leaving Duala 21/8 almost certainly for Libreville and probably with Asst French Inspector of Colonies on board. (C.O.C. West Africa 0300/23)
HOUTMAN MAX	Asking what her future employment is to be. (C. in C., S.A. 0933/23)
PRINSENDIEP HOOGLEY	From Batavia overdue at Capetown. (Reported overdue 22/8) Arrived at Cape-Town (S.O. (1) Cape Town 1048/23)
ORION	Adty. 0154/10. ORION is due Cape Town (date) after departure of convoy WS 2 B. Request confirmation that she is to sail for Bombay without escort. (N.O.i/c Simonstown 1129/23 to C. in C., E.I.)
CORFU'S Guns	Two 6-inch loaned to Army. Danger to her trim if any more are moved. (C. in C., S.A. 1240/23) Note CORFU was damagedin collision 10/7 and beached.
Suspicious Ship	Master of U.S. ILLINOIS reports at 0710/7 on 023° S., 002° 17' E., a ship approached twice at high speed, made smoke and turned away no description available except colour grey and cruiser stern. CUMBERLAND reports her position at this time was 023° 44' S., 006° 02 W., so ship before sighted could not have been she. (S.O.(1) Capetown 1505/22)
CUMBERLAND	A.C.N.S. (F) 1940/23 to C. in C., S.A. See Operation "Menace".
ALCANTARA's action 28/7	By 1704. 23/8. Commander U.S. Cruiser QUINCY informed me that she was investigating Isle Trinidada on 28/7 but sighted nothing suspicious. Later she heard gun fire presumably from ALCANTARA's action R.A.S.A.D. informed. (N.S.O.I. Montevideo, 1144/24 to D.N.I.)

/HL & SLF Convoys.....

1

MOST SECRET

War Diary 23.8.1940.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic- Contd.

SL & SLF Convoys. Contraband Control

Your 1318/22 and 1320/22. Not intended to set up Contraband Control Base unless experience proves this necessary.

Normally no question of unloading cargoes at Freetown but merely of telgraphing summaries of cargo manifests to M.E.W.

It is not the intention that special patrols for exercising Contraband Control should be instituted and A/M.C's should not therefore be diverted from normal duties for that purpose. It is appreciated that combination of SL and SLF convoys may be necessary to release A.M.C's for special troop convoy escorts. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1857/23 to C. in C., S.A.)

Your 1320/22 Cancel my 0015/22 Re use of A.M.C's as Contraband Control and escort vessels. (D.C.D. (F) 1912 to C. in C., S.A)

Mediterranean

HOSTILE Sunk

By mine 185 Cape Bon 18 at 0317. Survivors in MOHAWK. MOHAWK and HERO returning to Malta expect to arrive 1115/ (MOHAWK 0830/23

Explosion may have been due to either mine or torpedo. Description of incident. (C. in C., Med. 1107/23, M.O.1/C Malta, 1453/23) Board of enquiry found that explosion was almost certainly due to a moored mine and considered area on west side Channel, between Pantellaria and C. Bon is mined, probably thinly. A floating mine was observed close to HOSTILE after she was disabled. (V.A. Malta 1815/24-)

MOHAWK's 0830/23 NUBIAN has already returned to Malta with defects. (C. in C., Med. 1057/23 to Adty.)

Operation HATS

Asking date of D 1 (C. in C., Med 1023/23) Reply. (F.O.C. Force H. 1130/23) Further explanation (S.O. Force H. 1526/23) Route recommended for ILLUSTRIOUS and accompanying ships in view of sinking of HOSTILE. Am sending another destroyer to Malta. Intended time of sailing of destroyers from Malta. (C. in C., Med. 2003/23)

/R.A.A.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

23.8.1940.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

R.A.A. Med. is requested to detach HAVELOCK HURRICANE HIGHLANDER on completion of escort duty to meet CALIFORNIA SALOPIAN at R.V. to be signalled by F.O.C.N.F. to escort CALIFORNIA to North Channel, SALOPIAN to Liverpool. Estimated position of destroyers at 1500/24 53° 53' 20° 00' W., (C. in C., W.A. 1521/23)

C. in C., W.A. 1521/23. Request 2 destroyers be detailed to R.V. with SALOPIAN at 1500/24 in 053° 52' N., 020° 00' W., and remaining destroyers with CALIFORNIA in 051° 40' N., 020° 00' W., at 0800/25. (F.O.C.N.F. 2225/23)

Progress of the force. (F.O.C.N.F. 2345/23
See Mediterranean Volume

Force H. 0915/ 55° 48' N., 8° 22' W., (15 Group 1330/23)

Air Raid on Alexandria — 0100 to 0330. No damage or casualties. (H.C.I/C Alexandria 1076/23)

Malta — Enemy aircraft approached island 1123 to 1148. Heard but not seen near Great Harbour but owing to haze unconfirmed. Fighters up. No bombs dropped (H.Q., R.A.F. Malta 1600/23, Governor Malta 1917/23

Alexandria Defence — Balloons to be provided urgently (Air Ministry 1620/23)

Air Raid on Rhodes — Re raid 216 Sqdn. Bombs seaplane base amend date to read night 22/23 (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1704/24)

Kilia — Re defences etc., (C. in C., Med. 1555/23)

/Operations.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

23.3.1940.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean- Contd.

Operations

Following operations are in progress or intended.

A. LADYBIRD left Marsa Matruh a.m./23 for Bardia to attack merchant shipping thr there 0030/24.

B. Capt (D) 10 with 5 destroyers left Alexandria a.m. /23 to carry out A/S sweep followed by gun attack on seaplane base at Bomba at 0200/24. To retire eastwards at high speed to vicinity of Sollum at daylight and carry out A/S sweep along coast back to Alexandria under fighter protection of R.A.F. Western Desert.

C. One of these destroyers to cover retirement of LADYBIRD from Bardia may be ((? sailed). SYDNEY is at sea in support of these operations.

D. F.O. (3rd C.S.) in KENT with GLOUCESTER and three destroyers leave harbour a.m./24 to pass through Kaphonisos channel a.m./25 to exercise control in Aegean and cover movements of merchant ships from Piraeus to Port Said. Daybreak 25th sweep to area Sapienza Island and return to Alexandria in wake of convoy. (C. in C., Med. 1559/23)

Movements

JERVIS arrives Alexandria 0540/24 from North westward. KENT GLOUCESTER and three destroyers leaving 0600 (R.A.Alexandria 2028/23)

Escort Ships required

Adty. 1725/7. (1700/25/7 intended) It is requested favourable decision may now be made re provision of escort ships for the Mediterranean. Operations of Fleet are already limited by the number of destroyers available and at present I have to use them for local slow convoy a function which is sheer waste of these precious vessels and further reduces the number available for operation with the Fleet. (C. in C., Med. 1351/23)

/East Indies....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

23.3.1940.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

HH 4. Karachi portion sailed to R.V. with Bombay portion. Position (N.C.S.O. Karachi 0731/23)

Somaliland Evacuation — Final figures correct to about 1% Combatant 5630, civilians 1326, Casualties 104, total 7100. (C. in C., E.I. 0514Z/23) Add to my 0514Z/23, 40 civilian natives evacuated from Hais by P.S.T.O. (C. in C., E.I. 1306/23)

WS 2 A, WS 2 B. Routes (C. in C., E.I. 1218/23)

ROYAL SOVEREIGN Movements — Adty. 1816/21. (i) ROYAL SOVEREIGN will arrive Durban with only 15% fuel and will need to refuel before proceeding to Capetown.
(ii) Intend to sail ROYAL SOVEREIGN from Aden when 12 boilers are ready for steaming. (C. in C., E.I. 1302Z/23)

ARAWA-Orders — Re 2343/22. request ARAWA be sailed as convenient through Sunda Strait to Cocos Island and then proceed northwards along Fremantle Colombo route arriving Colombo 8/9 or earlier if boiler cleaning or machinery adjustments are necessary. Spare time to be spent patrolling area bounded by Equator and 005° S., 080° E., and 090° E., (C. in C., E.I. 1344Z/23 to C. in C., China)

America & West Indies

Lettered routes — My 1542/18. To facilitate reference Merchant shipping route will be described as follows for patrol purposes. From position 054° N., 019° W., to Trinidad Sombrero Mona and Turks Island will be AA BB, CC and DD respectively. From Sombrero Mona, Turks Island and Crooked to Bermuda will be WW, XX, YY and ZZ respectively. (C. in C., A.W.I. 1221/23)

Norwegian Ships — Re mounting guns. (S.O.(1) Kingston, Jamaica 1514/23)

China

COMMISSIONAIRE FAMEL — French complaint regarding requisitioning (C. in C., China 0821Z/23)

TAKSANG — Date of leaving Shanghai. (R.N.O. Shanghai 0212/23)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

23.8.1940.
Friday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

MONTEVIDEO — Your 1654/22. name of ship is believed to be MONTEVIDEO but she arrived at Pasajes under the name of RICARDO flying the Spanish Flag, but hoisted German flag once she was in port. Name RICARDO was painted out while at Pasajes. (V.C. San Sebastian 1615/23)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

TEXEO — SAN NICOLAS arrival 22/8. TEXEO (Rosario S. Fe. 1100/23 S.C. (1) Freetown 1803/23.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

23.8. 1940.
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

LEONIDAS M.
VARIAS
(Torpedoed 20/8)

Greek LEONIDAS M.VARIAS, torpedoed 2030/20 and derelict 055° 13' N. 010° 38' W., cargo timber. Flooded from bows to after engine room bulkheads. Has made no water for 2 days. Consider salvage might be possible if tugs be sent. Have 7 survivors on board remainder left in ship boats on torpedoing. Am rejoining convoy. (DOLPHINSTONE 1643/23)

SS CUMBERLAND
Sunk

British (10939 tons) torpedoed in convoy 55° 43' N., 7° 34' W., Survivors at Inniscalleen, boats going to take them off. Ship not sinking (WITCH 2347/23, Malin Hd. 2310/23, Dominions Office Rec. 1155/24) Orders to WITCH, WANDERER to hunt Capt S/F 0045/24) Orders to WITCH to take ULLSWATER and MAN-O-War (Convoy OB 202) under his orders and hunt (C. in C., W.A. 0027/24) Two trawlers to relieve ULLSWATER and MAN-O-WAR on OB 202 (C. in C., W.A. 0056/24) BLASHERE and ARCTIC EXPLORER sailed (N.O.I/C Belfast 0850/24) ENGLISHMAN to sail (C. in C., W.A. 0020/24) Sunk 5° 8 miles Inistrahull (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1305/24)

SS HAVILDAR
Sunk

British (5407 tons) Torpedoed at some time in some convoy as CUMBERLAND (WITCH 2347/23) If you have not found LEONIDAS proceed to assistance of HAVILDAR 315° 10 miles from Inistrahull (Admiral Devonport 0751/24 to SALVONIA) SALVONIA sailed Campbelltown 1220 speed 12½ knots. SCHELDE should be with you 1400 (C. in C., W.A. 1317/24 to WANDERER, F.O.I.C. Greenock 0829/24) Sunk (C. in C., W.A. 1341/24) We are towing her, position of crew unknown (From ENGLISHMAN via Port Patrick Radio, F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1305/24) Expect to arrive 1645. Have 66 survivors including 2 stretcher cases. (WITCH 1209/25 to N.O.I.C. Belfast)

ST.DUNSTAN

British (5681 tons) torpedoed at same time as CUMBERLAND, and HAVILDAR. Position 1247 55° 47' N., 7° 33' W., slight list required tugs. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q. 1717/24) Still afloat 1500 (C. in C., W.A. 1641/24) Ship will not steer. Collision bulkhead gone, No 2 bulkhead holding out. (WANDERER 1551/24) No sign of tug SCHELDE.

/Intend.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

23.8.1940.
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

ST.DUNSTAN Contd.

Intend to remain near ST. DUNSTAN throughout the night. WITCH only in company. (WANDERER 2300/24) ST. DUNSTAN now breaking up, require tug immediately ST. DUNSTAN 0530/25) Sail 2 trawlers to stand by SCHEDER assisting ST DUNSTANS 55° 45' N., 7° 27' W., (Admiral Plymouth 0816/25 to N.O.I/C Belfast)

As weather is rapidly deteriorating and will shortly be unfit for boatwork I am embarking master and retaining 16 members of CWTT (ST DUNSTAN) crew on board. Tugs have not arrived. Request you will inform Admiralty of position of derelict. (WANDERER 1515/25 to Capt. S.P. Belfast.

Submarines Reported

0317 — 56° 50' N., 7° 50' W., Position indefinite (D.S. 353)

0710 — 58° 30' N., 11° W., Position very indefinite (D.S. 353)

0344 — 293° Barra Hd. 7 miles (DS 353)

1107 — 57° N., 11° W., Position very indefinite (DS 353)

1430 — 38° 0' N., 21° 4' W., by SS HIGHLAND PRINCESS (D.D.I.C. 2006/23 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Routes — Digest of intelligence regarding routes thought to be used by U-Boats at present. (D.D.I.C. 1718/23)

Estimated Dispositions

Italian- 3 in Azores- Canaries Area.
German- 1 in about 51° N., 11° W., at 1307/22. destination unknown.
4 reported in Lorient, 21st August.
4 in N.W. Approaches of which 1 was in 55° 56' N., 8° 33' W., at 1804/22; another may have come through the Minches during last night; a third was in about 57° N., 11° W., at 1107/23.
1 in about 58° 30' N., 11° W. at 0710/23 probably homeward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1223/26)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

22.8.1940.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Operation HATS

After postponement for 48 hours due to the impossibility of moving VALIANT in Liverpool, on account of the weather, VALIANT, AJAX and ARGUS left Liverpool at 1530 today escorted by FAULKNOR, FORESIGHT, FORESTER, FURY, HAVELOCK, HURRICANE, HIGHLANDER and accompanied by Convoy AP 1 (DUCHESS OF BEDFORD, WAIOTIRA, DENBIGHSHIRE) and AP 2 (SYDNEY STAR) carrying M.T. and ROYAL SCOTSMAN carrying military personnel.

HAVELOCK, HURRICANE and HIGHLANDER on reaching the limits of N.W. Approaches return as escort for 2 A.M.C's returning from patrol.

R.A.A. Medn. in ILLUSTRIOUS, with SHEFFIELD, YORK and FIREDRAKE and local escort TARTAR, BEDOUIN, MASHONA left Scapa at 1105 today to R/V with VALIANT tomorrow p.m. off North West of Ireland.

COVENTRY and CALCUTTA, with FORTUNE, after fuelling at Greenock join VALIANT a.m. tomorrow.

Batteries at Cape Gris Nez Fire at Shipping

Enemy batteries near Cape Gris Nez at 0924 today fired three four-gun salvoes at Convoy C.E. 9 off Hythe. All shots were over. Fire was reopened at 1040 when the convoy was approaching Dover, and continued until 1215 when the convoy reached Deal, 108 rounds being fired. One 4-gun and one 3-gun battery were observed. Two shells fell in Dover harbour. No damage was done to any of our ships. Destroyers laid a smoke screen to protect the convoy.

After dark, fire was opened from France at Dover, 23 Shells being dropped behind the town, causing damage to gas and water mains and some casualties.

Dover Gun Opens Fire

During the afternoon the R.M. Siege Battery near Dover fired 3 rounds with aircraft spotting.

Certain ports in the U.K. have been declared closed to all vessels without previous permission of the local Naval Authority.

/BRITISH AIR ACTIVITY.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

22.8.1940.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Northern Escort Force

Your 1037/20. Disadvantages of basing Northern Escort Force on Rosyth are appreciated. Not practicable to base this force on west side, particularly now that convoys are routed N. of Hebrides. Will endeavour keep Northern Escort Force at a strength which will give ships a longer time in Harbour to compensate for the longer time at sea.

2. A/S training cannot be done near Rosyth I suggest Scapa might be used. (C. in C., W.A. 2332/22 to C. in C., Rosyth)

Defence of U.K.

Main German Units

Situation unchanged (D.D.I.C. 1439/22)

Closing of Certain Ports

Names of U.K. Ports declared closed to all Vessels and fishing craft without previous permission of local Naval Authority. (A.C.N.S. T. 1639/22) (D. of L.D. 1400/24)

Movements

Patrol O

My 1205/19. To 23/8 add Patrol O by 16th D.F., and to 25/8 add Patrol O by 21st D.F. (C. in C. Nore 0741/22)

Nore Command

Dispositions for night 22/23. (C. in C., Nore 0800/22) Day Patrols and Movements to 1200/23 (C. in C., Nore 1200/22)

ATHERSTONE

Proceed to Sheerness (N.O.I.C. Tyne 1047/22

Portsmouth

Night movements signal. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1343/22 and 1737/22)

Harwich

Night dispositions and movements to 1200/23 (N.O.I.C. Harwich 1443/22)

RANPURA
CARNARVON CASTLE

Sailing postponed till 23/8 and 25/8 respectively, owing to unfavourable weather. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1532/22 to Adty.)

/Patrol Minesweeping

MOST SECRET

War Diary

22.8.1940.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining, Contd.

Brown Ridge Patrol — Will not be carried out tonight (V.A.S. 1541/22 to submarine H.34)

RODNEY HOOD — RODNEY is to sail for Rosyth at 0600/23 to dock and give leave. R.A. (D) to detail screen of four destroyers which will return with HOOD who should sail p.m. 24th C. in C., Rosyth requested to arrange fighter and A/S air escort. (C. in C., H.F. 1602/22)
My 1117/21. Intend unbasining HOOD about 1900/23 and completing not later than 1200/24. (A S Rosyth 1702/22 to B.C.I.)

WORCESTER — 3 destroyers on patrol between Smith's Knoll and Aldeburgh Light Float. Senior Officer WORCESTER. (C. in C., Nore, 1718/22 to WOLFHOUND)

Patrol T. — My 1205/19. Cancel Patrol T by 21st D.F. on 23/8. (C. in C., Nore, 1727/22 to D. 16.)

Chasers. 11 & 15 — C. in C., W.A. 1019/19. If these Chasers are not to separate from Tyne, it is most desirable that two others be detailed. (C. in C., Rosyth 1946/22)

Operations

Convoy M.P. (H.M.Brigade) — Cancel my 2141/21. Convoy not to sail till further orders. (D.C. 0121/22 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool)

Escorts should remain available (V.C.N.S. 1021/22 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool) Convoy M.P. is to be sailed for Scapa as soon as possible (V.C.N.S. 1219/22 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

F.O.I.C. Liverpool's 1300/22. KARANJA not ready till 24/8. Remainder of Convoy to be sailed 23/8 (D.O.D. H. 1655/22 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool)

/My 1929.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

22.8.1940.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

My 1929. Request you arrange R/V for WOLVERINE and VOLUNTEER to join DUNCAN and CATTISTOCK as escort for Convoy MP (C. in C., W.A. 1946/22 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool) WOLVERINE and VOLUNTEER pro-ceed to Belfast with despatch and complete with fuel (C. in C., W.A. 1929/22)

Operation HATS

My 1703/21. Weather moderated. Intention to sail is confirmed. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0942/22 to Adty.) Scapa depastures at 1105, ILLUSTRIOUS, SHEFFIELD, YORK, screened by TARTAR, BEDOUIN, ASHANTI, and FIREDRAKE. (A.C.O.S. 1124/22 to Adty.) Sailed Force GAMMA (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1530/22 to Adty.) Note After todat all signals referring to Operation HATS are precised in Mediterranean

Iceland

WORCESTERSHIRE, CILICIA, and ROYAL ULSTERMAN, escorted by ANTHONY and AMAZON, pass Ailsa Craig at 1600/23. Speed 12 knots. After passing 59° N., 11° 35' W., WORCESTERSHIRE proceeds to N.P. 51 and CILICIA and ROYAL ULSTERMAN through 60° N. 13° 23' W., at speed 13½ knots to N.P.41 and Reykjavik respectively. (N.P.C. 0940/22 to Adty) Request Fighter protection. Code word FRUIT. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1929/22 to Adty.) (F.O.C.N.P. 1042/22 to N.P.)

Your 1142/10. Intended that MANCHESTER CITY shall lay observation minefields at Eyja Fiord and Seidisfiord after completing Controlled Minefield at Hualfiord. Co-operation of C.O. MANCHESTER CITY and Military should be sought in selecting sites for control stations and D.R.L's. Minefield at Reykjavik considered un-suitable. (A.C.N.S. T. 1646/22 to F.O.I.C. Iceland.)

Shelling from Cape Gris Nez

At 0924 enemy batteries near Cape Gris Nez fired three four-gun salvoes at Con-voy CE 9 off Hythe. All over. Fire re-opened at 1040 when convoy approaching Dover and continued until 1215. 108 rounds fired. Shots were short at first but later straddled. One battery of four guns observed and one of three guns. Two shells fell in Dover harbour one narrowly missing a M/S Trawler. No damage to convoy and escort but several near misses. (V.A.Dover 1306/22 to Adty.)

/Floating Doc[k]

MOST SECRET

War Diary

22.8.1940.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

Floating Dock No XII — Dock should be routed by searched channel Route given. (C. in C., Rosyth 1705/22 to F. N.O.I.C. Tyne)

Norwegian Coast Swept Channel — Further information required as to continued use of Swept Channel reported by STURGEON in M.1. Investigate, and report when on return passage to Base. (V.A.S 1717/22 to H.34)

Submarine Anti-U-Boat Patrol — Your 1919/13 and 2146/16 and my 2044/14. Consider that a patrol off Hebrides offers best chance of success, and propose that only St. Kilda Patrol should be used. (C. in C., W.A. 1854/22 to C. in C., H.F.)

Operation DR — Will be carried out by NORFOLK and AUSTRALIA, and not by 15th C.S. (C. in C., H.F. 2129/22 to F.O.C. 15th C.S)

Dover Bombarded from Calais — Dover was bombarded between 2105/22 and 2219/22. Two guns firing singly from Calais. 23 rounds fired falling mainly at the back of the town in Buckland and Kearsney. A number of casualties. Details not yet known. (V.A.Dover 2303 to Adty.)

Submarines

H.34 — Leave patrol after dark 24/8 and return to Harwich by your outward route. (S.O. S/M's Harwich 1345/22 to H.34)

Positions — For following 24 hours at 0600/23 in Area A (V.A.S. 1707/22) In Area B. (V.A.S. 1711/22)

TRIAD
TRUANT — Adty's 1709/17. It is proposed to sail TRIAD and TRUANT Westabout from Rosyth about 30/8 escorted by WHITE BEAR to lat 55° N. WHITE BEAR then return Rosyth for subsequent escort of TETRARCH and TRITON. Request indirect route to be followed South of 55° N., and provide on ward escort if considered necessary. (F.O. S/M's 1716/22 to C. in C., W.A. and F.O.C.N.A.)

/Adty's 1833/7/7.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

22.8.1940.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines-Contd.

Adty's 1833/7/7

L.27 at 8 hours notice. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1904/22)

Proposed Submarine Patrols off Lorient and S.W. Ireland

(i) D/F and aircraft sighting report CACHALOT's success, and a recent N.N.U. report all point to an increasing use of Lorient as a U-Boat base.
(ii) It is considered that a S/M patrol off Lorient in addtion to that off the Gironde would have every chance of successful offensive action.
(iii) Another patrol off S.W. Coast of Ireland would also be valuable if numbers are available.
(iv) S/Ms for these patrols could well be based at Plymouth. (C. in C., W.A. 2234/22 to Adty.)

British Air Activity

SA.2.
SA.3.

Patrol SA.3 and two Southern Tracks of SA 2 cancelled owing to weather (C. in C., Rosyth 0650/22)

At 0852/22 in 62° 15' N., 5° 14' E., A/C attacked steam vessel about 500 tons steering 90° at 6 knots, flying Norwegian flag and with large deck cargo of barrels. Near misses claimed. (Donibristle 1135/22)

Balloons

Balloon Command Daily Report as at 0700/22 (H.Q. Balloon Command 1015/22)

Indication of A/C Personnel in Sea

Methods of indication described. (D.N.A.D. 1153/22) (A Message 249.A.)

S.16.A.

Patrol cancelled owing to weather. (C. in C., Rosyth 1544/22 to C. in C., H.F.)

Rosyth Area

Air Searches for 23/8 (C. in C., Rosyth 1848/22)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

22.8.1940.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity

Newhaven

Kemptown Coastguard reports 2 bombs dropped alongside 6-inch guns. Believed severe casualties. (Port War Signal Station, Newhaven 0033/22 to N.O.I.C. Newhaven) Bombs dropped about 100 yards from Guns. Battery not out of action. (P.W.S.S.Newhaven 0040/22 to N.O.I.C. Newhaven) Shoreham report no damage to Battery and no casualties (R.N.O. Shoreham 0750/22 to N.O.I.C. Newhaven)

8 A/C bearing 180° from North Foreland Light 9 miles bombing (FERNIE 1255/22, 1301/22)

Delay-Action Bomb

A delay-action bomb dropped at Yeovilton on 20/8 made a slight explosion 30½ hours after, doing very slight ~~slight~~ damage (R.A.N.A.S. 1546/22 to Adty.)

Thames Estuary

9 aircraft bearing 230° from 51° 34' N., 1° 8' E., (ATHERSTONE 1942/22)

THOROLD

British, 1689 tons, bombed, machine gunned, and sunk at 1560/22, two miles south of the Smalls. 1 dead, 10 missing 13 landed at St Davids by lifeboat of whom 3 badly injured. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2147/22 to Adty.) (M.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1815/23 to Adty.)

Mining

SN 2.

Completed (R.A.Minelayers 0220/22)

BS.34

Postponed 24 hours. Weather unsuitable. (Capt. D.20 0911/22 to C. in C., Nore) My 1701/21. Laying instructions for 23 and 24/8. (D.20. 1901/22 to C. in C., Nore)

Scapa

My 0442/20. Mine parachute washed up on N. shore of Hoy at 0905/23. Object reported dropped from A/C in centre of Hoy Mouth. Entrance to Hoy sound from Westward remains closed. (A.C.O.S. 1645/22 to Adty.) My 1445/20. Bomb dropped near Hatston was probably a Mine. (A.C.O.S. 2025/22 to Adty.))

/FD.25.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

22.8.1940.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

MD. 25

PORPOISE Laying instructions. (V.A.S. 1718/22 to S.6.)

Sweep off Arbroath

Your 0705/21/8. 4 paddle Minesweepers will be making Search Sweep on 25 and 26/8. (Comdr. M/S Cranton 1720/22 C. in C., Rosyth)

Effect of British Aircraft Mining June-August.

Norway During June a transport was mined and sunk in Oslo Fiord.
Port of Oslo was closed to all traffic 11/8. During that day a German minesweeper and three other German ships arrived in the harbour damaged by mines. After sweeping 11/8,12/8 and 13/8 port was reopened. Reported from coastal villages that two German ships were mined and sunk in the Fiord.

Denmark During July 3 small Danish steamers were mined off Aalbry and 3 others off Hadersler in Little Belt.
On 7/8 3 German steamers northbound were damaged by mines near Copenhagen.

General A German motor ship of Stinnes Line arrived at Gothenburg 17/8 with bows seriously damaged by a mine. Left next day after effecting temporary repairs. (Air Min. DS 399)

Enemy Intelligence

At 0852/22 in 62° 12' N.5° 10' E. A/C saw about 60 small Coastal Vessels in a harbour (Donibristle 1135/22)

At 1350/22 in 63° 30' N., 9° 33' E., about 50 small fishing boats in Harbour (Donibristle 1840/22)

Trondheim

At 1405/22, two M/V's about 10,000 tons apparently light (Donibristle 1840/22)

Skjorn Fiord

A/C saw one M/V about 200 tons on course 060° speed 8 knots (Donibristle 1840/22)

Nieuport

At 1450/22, 4 miles North of Nieuport, A/C saw one medium sized M/V (H.Q.B.C. 0120/23)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

22.8.1940.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Dividing Line for Convoys	C. in C., H.F's proposals re C. in C., Rosyth's 2325/21 (C. in C., H.F. 1246/22)
Convoys OB 204	French warships SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA to join, and if ready VIKING, both from Greenock.
HS	After local escort has left convoy certain ships (named) will be known as H.S. and will proceed in company to Freetown. Destination not be be devulged to merchant ships until immediately before sailing (D.O.D. (H) 0030/22 to C. in C., W.A.)
PRESIDENT HOUDUCE	Admty. 0030/22. French Warship PRESIDENT HOUDUCE now at Liverpool is to sail with Convoy H.S. 26/8. She is to be stored and victualled to capacity. 2. All reference to VIKING is to be deleted. (D.O.D.(H) 1713/22) (A.C.F.N.F.L. 1730/22) Admty. 1815/20 intend sailing H.S. Group 24 for Portland 2000/23 for onward routeing to Portsmouth the next night (C. in C., W.A. 1921/22)
HN 58 Convoy H.F.	Arrived 1530/22 (N.C.S.O. Methil 1541/22) Cancel my 2141/21. This convoy is not to sail until further orders (DO 0121/22) Escorts should remain available (V.C.N.S. 1021/22)
HG 41	ARROW to return with HG 41 if fuel permits (Capt. A/S Belfast 1328/22) Fuel does not permit (ARROW 1556/22)
MT FS 60	MT will leave Methil 1000/23 close escort BLACK SWAN HASTINGS who are subsequently to escort FS 60 (C. in C., Rosyth 1554/22)
HX 67	Sailing telegram (D.T.D. 1448/22)
OB 202	Sailed 1430/22 Escort WINCHELSEA, PRIMROSE (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1637/22)

/Dividing Line.....

1

MOST SECRET

War Diary

22.8.1940.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping-Contd.

Dividing Line between Convoys	Concur with C. in C., Rosyth's 2325/21 (C. in C., W.A. 1621/22)
STRATHSPEY	T.N.V. to relay Spit Buoy daylight 23/8. (C. in C., Nore, 1720/22)
GERANIUM	Orders to havr OG 41 at 2200/23 to meet HX 65B at 0600/25 (C. in C., W.A. 1753/22)
VIMIERA	To join FS 59 on passing. WOLSEY to report position etc., (C. in C., Rosyth 1955/22, WOLSEY 2050/22, 2200/22)

MOST SECRET

22.8.1940.
Thursday

War Diary

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

ST. ROSARIO — British, 4312 tons, out of control in N.E. gale off Flamborough Head. (Portishead Radio, Recd. 0728/22) (Humber Radio 0737/22)

RUGELEY — British, 4985 tons, due Cape Town from -Freetown, not arrived. (S.O.I. Capetown 1018/22)

VINGA — Norwegian Tanker, 7321 tons, due Cape Town 18/8 from Basra, not arrived. (S.O.i. Capetown 1018/22)

NORTHUMBERLAND — British, 11,559. My 1108/20. Arrived Cape Town. (S.O.I. Capetown 1018/22)

LEONIDAS M. VALNA — Disable at 55° 28' N., 10° 52' W., at 1057/22 (A.C.O.S. 1105/22 to Adty.) Sail SALVONIA to assist (C. in C., W.A. 1447/22 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.8.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

SS. CUBA — To be employed by French Adty. to repatriate French reservists from West Indies. Requesting Adty. assurance CUBA will not be interfered with while proceeding from Fort de France to Casablanca (A.N.A.Madrid 1731/22)

Watch on German Ship — Please report immediately to Admiralty and to me any new arrivals Germans ships which should be carefully watched Report also to above any sign of preparation for sailing German ships now at Vigo. (A.N.A. Madrid 1809/22 to Consul, Vigo)

South Atlantic

AP 2 AJAX — (date) AP 2 expect to arrive 1200 September 2nd zone plus (AJAX 1040/22 to C. in C., S.A.)

RUGELEY, VINGA, NORTHUMBERLAND — See Casualties & Defects.

SUMATRA — Uncertain whether she can dock at Cape Town until docking plans available. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1039/22)

Mails — To and from Liberia, censored at Freetown, provide valuable source of information (C. in C., S.A. 1115/22 to Adty.)

SL and SLF Convoys to be combined — Your 1835/21. 2336/21 and 0215/22. Until return of DORSETSHIRE to Freetown about 28/9 after docking at -Durban and DRAGON can arrive Lagos about 9/9 after docking at Capetown DELHI and BRIDGEWATER will be the only ships available for the various duties. It will be necessary therefore to make A.M.Cs available for C.C. and escort duty by again combining SL and SLF convoys. Intend to commence with SL and SLF 45. (C. in C., S.A. 1320/22)

/Additional.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

22.8.1940.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic- Contd.

Additional Convoy

Part two of my 1320 final part. In view of number of very slow ships in port, chiefly Greek, who refuse to sail unless in convoy, intended to sail an additional 7½ knots convoy 1/9, which will join with SL 46 sailing 3/9 in N.W. Approaches, SLF 46 will not sail.

Fuelling of M.V's Sailings from St. Vincent

S.O. (1) Montevideo 1532/12 and N.C.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 1055/20. For the present fast ships from South American ports may if necessary call at St. Vincent for fuel. These should be sailed from there at dusk on unusual course. More precise instructions will be issued shortly (S.O. (1) Freetown 1403/22)

Your 1345/19. Fast oil burning ships. Request Admiralty will instruct shipping companies concerned that ships able to complete voyage without refuel at St. Vincent or Freetown are to bunker in U.K. or at last loading Port. Regards those which require refuel propse
(a) Ships trading between U.K. and South America should fuel at St. Vincent
(b) Ships normally trading between U.K. and Cape and beyond should fuel at Freetown.
(c) Ships diverted from Meditn. to Cape route should fuel at St. Vincent C. Verde Is. (C. in C., S.A. 1908/22 to Adty.)

CARNARVON CASTLE

(from Greenock) Your 1112/19. Request CARNARVON CASTLE's speed be adjusted to arrive Freetown 1500/2/9 (C. in C., S.A. 1928/22 to C. in C., W.A.)

MOST SECRET

22.8.1940.
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

ROKUAL

Keep to westward of 22° 55' E., until 0130/24 (C. in C., Med. 1127/22, My 1707/20
Keep to westward of 22° 40' E., until 0500/24 (Capt. (S) 1 2349/22)

Operations HATS & BONNETS

V.C.N.S. 1931/22. to C's in C., M.E. See Mediterranean Volume.

Air Operations

22/8. R.C. Gulf of Bomba. One destroyer, one submarine, one ship 470 ft long, one tanker 400 ft long, one mile W. of Geziqa El Maraket 1. Bomba 19 seaplanes, Gezela 11 bombers (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1659/22)

Air Raid on Alexandria

0350. 4 bombs, unimportant material damage, no casualties (N.O.I.C. Alexandria 0812/22)

Stores for Malta

V.A.Malta's 1033/20 has my full concurrance and strongest support (C. in C., Med. 2019/22)

Supply Ships for Malta

My 2019/22. Supplies for Malta include current needs and materials to bring forward defences appears to be of the order of 12000 tons a month. If I am to run these supplies in under reasonable protection and yet keep fleet unhampered for operations against enemy the closest co-ordination is necessary and supplies must either arrive in fast ships or else be transhipped to fast ships in Eastern Mediterranean. Necessary to shew clear idea of supplying requirements and of their date and method of arrival well ahead.

This co-operation is not at present being achieved, Cargoes of DEVIS and RECORDER are an example. Latter has a speed of only 11 knots. Malta convoy should have a speed of advance of 15 knots.

/Arrangements.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

22.8.1940.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-

Supply Ships for Malta, Contd.

Arrangements need similar co-ordination in Egypt and this matter is being further investigated as first organization arranged has not proved satisfactory. If three ships such as thos given in Adty. 1301/21/7 could be kept permanently in Mediterranean for the present Malta problem would be greatly simplified. The only alternative appears to be to send the supplies out from U.K. in fast ships in the first instance. (C. in C., Med. 2031/22)

PANDORA and RORQUAL due Alexandria from westward daylight 24/8 and 25/8 respectively PROTEUS leaves Malta North eastwards p.m./23 OSIRIS due Malta from North eastward p.m.24/8

ORION, LIVERPOOL, JERVIS, JANUS and convoy due at Alexandria from direction Gavdo a.m. 23. and 24/8, respectively. STUART, JUNO ILEX, DIAMOND and WATERHEN leave Alexandria a.m. 23 to sweep to 23° east thence to vicinity of Sollum daylight 24/8 then eastwards along coast to arrive Alexandria p.m. 24 LADYBIRD leaves vicinity of Sollum daylight 24/8 to arrive Alexandria a.m.25 VOYAGER and convoy leave Alexandria p.m./22 due off Port Said 0900/23 arrive Haifa a.m. 24 VAMPIRE from Haifa due vicinity of Port Said 0200/22 due Alexandria 0600/24th. T.O.O. 1901 22nd August. (C. in C., Med. 2001/22)

Air Raid on Bomba

My 1335/23 Part one. Three of EAGLE's Swordfish under operation control of A.O.C. in Western desert, armed with torpedoes and supported by unit of R.A.F. attacked small concentration of enemy shipping near Jez El Marakeb in Gulf of Bomba. One destroyer one depot ship and two submarines were sunk. Destroyer was alongside depot ship with a submarine gripping her and sank as a result of concussion of depot ship and submarine being hit by torpedo. (C. in C., Med. 1333/23)

/The third.....

MOST SECRET

22.8.1940.
Thursday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Air Raid on Bomba, Contd. — The third torpedo sank other submarine. (C. in C., Med. 1335/23)

Attack took place 0800/22. One torpedo hit first submarine, second torpedo hit depot ship resulting esplosions destroyed first submarine destroyer and depot ship. Third torpedo hit second submarine which broke in two and sank. A.A and M.G. fire heavy. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1658/23)

East Indies

Convoy BN 4 — My 0432/18. Amend Red Sea R.V. to read 23° 0' 37° 50' at 1100 2 D 78 steering 355° (F.O.C.R.I.N. 0432Z/22)

CREES — Left Aden 1445Z with troop transport KHANDALA for Mombasa (N.O.i/c Aden 1515/22)

ARAWA — My 1843/18. Confirmed that ARAWA is required to escort ORCADES from Bombay to Freetown. Is at disposal of C. in C., E.I. until required at Bombay (D.O.D. (F) 2343/22

EL HAK — (Bombed 13/8) Not damaged by bombs but some damage caused by grounding and speed reduced (C. in C., E.I. 0756/22)

Convoys — W.S. 2 A, B.S. (C. in C., E.I. 1532Z/22)

B.N. 5. — Your 2303/15 escort for B.N. 5½ from Bombay to Gulf of Aden will be by one C class cruiser and one A.M.C. (C. in C., E.I. 1. 12002/22)

Trincomalee — Port closed to incoming traffic at night except for H.M. ships. Re lights. S.O.(1) Colombo 0736Z/22)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

22.8.1940.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia & New Zealand

Convoy US 4	Your 0145/20 Day 6 28/8 confirmed. N.3.N.B 02242/22)
YARRA	Intend to sail YARRA fro Colombo leaving Fremantle 24/8 (A.C.N.B. 0429Z/22)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

22.8.1940.
Thursday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

NORDENHAM — Your 1800/20 and 1100/21 please confirm name of ship. (D.D.I.C. 1054/22 to B.C. San Sebastian)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

TESEO — Sailed from Buenos Aires 21/8 for San Nicolas (N.C.S.O. Buenos Aires 1135/22)

FRANCIA
FASSIO — FRANCA FASIO reported due to leave Barcelona night 21/22 Aug. Painted grey, name obliterated bottom heavy machine gun in bow and one three or four inch gun stern. Wears Spanish Flag outside Spain waters and will keep within Territorial Waters A 2 (N.A.Madrid 1030/22)

1

MOST SECRET

22.8.1940.
Thursday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

WARWICK with 39 survivors (taken off MALLOW and HX 64 due 0300/23 (WARWICK 1025/22)

Look out for lifeboat under sail in 55° N., 10° W., (C. in C., W.A. 2039/22 to VANOC, WALKER, ARROW, ACHATES)

Ships Attacked

VILLE DE GAND (Torpedoed 18/8) — Reports reached Dublin tonight three vessels been lost off Western Irish Coast. VILLE DE GAND bound Liverpool New York torpedoed Sunday in Atlantic. Some members crew landed today in lifboat at creek at Erris on Mayo Coast. Captain and 41 crew still missing. Survivors say saw three others in punt twenty miles off coast fighting strong gale.

MARCELLE — Steamer MARCELLE also lost off coast no particulars available.

PRESTATYN ROSE — British Steamer PRESTATYN ROSE arrived Dublin today reported attack coming to Dublin. Crew safely here. 21230. Curran. (C.T.C. Red. 0620/22)

Submarines Reported

1307 — By D.F. 51° N., 11° W., Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1355/22) Aircraft is searching area south of 56° 08 N., and east 8° W. all day. This is minimum limit of travel by U-Boat since sighted. (Capt. A/S Belfast 1150/22)

North Atlantic

Almeira reports U-Boat sighted near Cape de Gata by a resident no date. Almeira grades C.2. (S.O. (1) Gib. 1052/22)

/Estimated.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

22.8.1940.
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

U-Boats reported

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

3 Italian in Azores-Canaries area.
No estimate possible of position of the U-Boat last reported on 18th in 40° N., 20°W
4 in N.W. Approaches of which one is in approaches to North Channel another in area midway between Bloody Foreland and another South Westward of Rockall.
1 near Cape Wrath 1842/21 possibly patrolling. (D.D.I.C. 1235/22)

Submarines Attacked

1821 — By aircraft 55° 56' N., 8° 24' W., doubtful (C. in C., W.A. 1846/22) ARROW, ACHATES, to search (Capt A/S Belfast 2328/22, 0415/23 ARROW 0402/23) WANDERER to search (Capt A/S Belfast 2230/22)

2339 to 2343 — 47° 40' N., 3° 25' W., by aircraft with 2-250 lb bombs. First bomb burst 25 yards off port bow, second burst 10 yards. dead astern and produced great water disturbance. Submarine was not seen again after attack. (H.Q.B.C. 1702/23)

North Atlantic

1330/18 — At 1330/18. ARCTIC RANGER sighted periscope in 070° Almina (?10) Attack was carried out and a conning tower appeared momentarily in water (? disturbance) following attack. Success of attack cannot be assessed. (F.O.C.N.A. 1022/22)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

24.8.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Repatriation of HUNTER Survivors and British Merchant Seamen.

Your 1352/13. You should press very strongly for repatriation of survivors of HUNTER in GOTEBORG and if necessary inform Swedish Govt. that no distinction is seen in principle between return to this country of survivors of HUNTER and return to Germany of German airmen. You should also press for inclusion of British merchant seamen in next journey of GOTEBORG after having secured inclusion of HUNTER survivors. Latter are understood to have signed declaration that they will not fight again against Germany under penalty of death but this fact should not be permitted to influence repatriation negotiations. (Head of M. 1328/24 to B.N.A. Stockholm).

U.S.A. Destroyers Your 1102/21. Proposed arrangements as to dates and place of delivery and sailing of personnel from U.K. (V.C.N.S. 1938/24 to C.N.S. Ottawa).

Defence of U.K.

Shetlands Your 2041/16, para. A and your 2300/12. Request information as to date of arrival of re-inforcement Battalion. (F.O.C.S. 1230/24 to Adty.)

Movements

SALOPIAN Your 2225/23. (2 destroyers to R/V with SALOPIAN at 1500/24). My position at 1500/24 will be 52°38' N. 15°37' W. course 8° speed 12 knots (SALOPIAN 0943/24 to F.O.C.N.P.). Estimated position at 1800/25, 55°25' N. 9°30' W., course 082°, 12½ knots. (SALOPIAN 1111/24 to C. in C., W.A.)
My position 53°23' N., 20°10' W. course 065, 24 knots. (Capt. D.9 1600/24 to SALOPIAN).

D.6 On completing present duty proceed with TARTAR, BEDOUIN, and ASHANTI to Port ZA. (R.A.D., H.F., 0955/24 to Capt.D.6).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

24.8.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements (Contd.)

Dover — Patrols for night 24/25. (V.A. Dover, 1237/24).

4 Nore destroyers to join HF. — Adty. 1555/23. VERSATILE, VIMY, ANTELOPE and AMBUSCADE detailed. Request destination. (C. in C., Nore, 1350/24 to R.A.D.) Your 1350/24. Scapa. (R.A.D. 1651/24 to C. in C., Nore).

CARNARVON CASTLE — My 1750/23. Unable to undock owing to weather. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1602/24 to Adty.) Anticipate ship will not arrive Cape Town before am/6/9. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1710/24 to C. in C., S.A.).

CALIFORNIA — Your 2225/23. Shall be 3½ hours late at R/V. (CALIFORNIA 1705/24 to F.O.C.N.P.)

KASHMIR — Sailed Humber 1430. Expected arrive May Island 0200/25, Scapa 1000/25, Scapa 1000/25. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1740/24, 1732/24, and 1944/24).

WOOLWICH — Still considered essential to send WOOLWICH to Mediterranean. Please signal arrangements you would wish made to minimise resulting difficulties. (1st S.L. 1911/24 to C. in C., H.F.).

D.9 — My 1655/24. (HAVELOCK and HURRICANE searching for U-Boat). Cannot usefully join SALOPIAN unless I leave present area by Midnight (Capt. D.9 1901/24 to C. in C., W.A.). Leave in time to join SALOPIAN. (C. in C., 2127/24 to Capt. D.9).

Operations

Convoy MP. (R.M. Brigade) — Adty. 2329/23. S.S. BELGRAVIAN loading at Cardiff is required to sail with Liverpool Section of convoy on 31/8. Request you sail her accordingly, allowing maximum loading time at Cardiff. (D.O.D.H. 1341/24 to C. in C., W.A.).
Adty. 2329/23, para 1. Transports sailing from Scapa will be SOBIESKI, KENYA, and ETTRICK. Those from Liverpool will be

KARANJA.....

War Diary

MOST SECRET

24.8.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations (Contd.)

Convoy MP. (R.M. Brigade) Contd.

KARANJA, PENNLAND, WESTERNLAND, and GELGRAVIAN. (D.O.D.H. 1342/24 to C. in C., H.F.).
3 ships with DUNCAN and CATTISTOCK sailed 1600/24. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1620/24 to C. in C., H.F.).
Route for convoy from Scapa to R/V with DEVONSHIRE and Liverpool Section at 0700/2 Sept. and thence to destination. (C. in C., W.A., 1909/24).

Dover Shelled

Dover shelled between 0953 and 1016 today. 6 shells fired, mainly at back of town. 1 killed, 3 wounded, all civilian, and one house demolished. (V.A. Dover 1631/24 and 2011/24 to Adty.)

Floating Dock No.XII.

Passed May Island northwards at 1500/24, escorted by CAIRO, 4 escort vessels, and 5 trawlers. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1740/24).
Speed 4 knots. (C. in C., Rosyth 1836/24).

Submarines

Your 1124/23. I think that submarine dispositions must conform to a broad consideration of naval strategy and not be canalised by alarm of invasion.
A further objection to anti-invasion patrols is that tactical restrictions are imposed by which enemy ships escape attack vide your 1036/26/7 to Captains S and your remarks on 1062/SM 1042 of 17/8. In my view the submarine density in zones H and A.5 proposed in your 1736/23 is too great, and one or two of these submarines could with advantage be diverted to the tasks proposed by C. in C. W.A. 2234/22. (C. in C., H.F. 1523/24 to V.A.S.).
This is the last dark night period in which it was intended to earmark such a large number of submarines for anti-invasion patrols in view of increasing state of preparedness of country and less favourable weather considions for invasion likely to obtain after mid September. In view of your 1523 however propose to reduce one submarine from Zone A.5 and to transfer one T class temporarily to 7th Flotilla for patrol in Bay of Biscay. (V.A.S. 1849/24 to C. in C., H.F.).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

24.8.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines (Contd.)

Adty's 1833/7/7 — CACHALOT on patrol off W. coast of France. H.43 exercising in Plymouth s/m area. (C. in C., W.A. 1619/24 to Adty.) L.27 at 8 hours notice. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1910/24 to Adty.)

Positions — For following 24 hours at 0600/25. Area A. (V.A.S. 1819/24). Area B. (V.A.S. 1821/24).

TRIBUNE) TRIDENT) — Expect pass Butt of Lewis about 2200/25 (for Patrol off Outer Hebrides). Request A/C and A/S Vessels be instructed not to attack s/ms in positions given from 0600/26 until further orders. (V.A.S. 1848/24)

E-Boats

There are indications of E-Boat activity in Channel tonight. (C. in C., W.A. 0224/24 to VANSITTART).

Boulogne — At 1100/24 apparently no E-boats present. (PIU.2038/24).

Calais — 9 E-boats in Bassin Carnot and 1 at Quai Maritime. (PIU. 2038/24).

Cape Blanc Nez — 4 E-boats heading eastward off the Cape. (PIU. 2038/24).

Cherbourg — 4 new arrivals at Quay east of seaplane base, of which 3 might be E-Boats. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q. 0055/25).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

24.8.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

Brest

Between 0029 and 0322/24, aircraft attacked a lighted wharf one mile East of Brest, the Naval School S.E. of Brest, 3 naval vessels at jetty in S.W. corner of Harbour, and 5 barges off slipway one mile W. of Brest. Bursts seen on East wing of naval school and on barges, and a shower of sparks on the lighted wharf. (H.C.B.C. 2308/24).

Zeebrugge

Between 1105 and 1325/24, aircraft bombed a 6000 ton ship at the Mole. Result not observed. (H.Q.B.C. 2308/24).

Boulogne

Early am/24th. Aircraft bombed about 30 barges alongside Mole. Bombs fell very close to inner wall of Mole. (Chatham, Broadcast 0725/24 to H.Q.C.C.)

Swansea Balloon Barrage.

From 26/8 will be flying in extended area set forth. (Air Ministry F.O.6 1253/24 to Maintenance Command).

Rosyth Area

Air searches for 25/8. (C. in C. Rosyth 1852/24).

St. Georges Channel

Following received from F.O.I.C. Milford Haven begins:- Since August 10th, 18 unescorted ships and trawlers have been attacked by enemy aircraft between Smalls and Irish Coast. Harbour Master Rosslare reports constant patrol vicinity of Tuskar. Ends. In addition Milford Haven convoys have been attacked and appears no reason why attacks on Liverpool convoys should not take place in Irish Sea. 15 Group R.A.F. are maintaining a patrol of Ansons or Blenheims but, as this does not provide adequate offensive power, request information when fighter aircraft will be available to prevent enemy enjoying complete mastery of air in these areas. (C. in C., W.A., 2331/24 to Adty.)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

24.3.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity

CLAN MACBEAN — British, 5000 tons. Bombed at 0745/24. (Lands End Radio 0851/24).

Newhaven — Sound of bombs and guns heard to Eastward. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 1023/24 to Adty.)

Ramsgate. — Results of air-raids at 1123 and 1255/24. Naval casualties nil, and damage to naval vessels superficial. Civil casualties and damage. (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 1506/24 to Adty.)

ARCTIC TRAPPER — H.M. trawler. Machine-gunned at 1520/24 about half a mile N.W. of West Gull Buoy. No casualties, and one aircraft brought down. (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 1520/24 to Adty.)

ORCA — Steam and Sail Yacht, machine-gunned by 2 aircraft 0945/24 at 51°39' N. 5°35' W. No damage. Owner killed. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1620/24 to Adty.)

London — No bombs near docks or river during raid from 1530 to 1650/24. (F.O.I.C. London, 1757/24 to C. in C., Nore). Details of damage to West India and Royal docks. (F.O.I.C. London 0159/25 to C. in C., Nore). Damage at Blackwall (F.O.I.C. London 1007/25 to C. in C. Nore).

Portsmouth — Raided at 1630 by about 27 aircraft. Some damage and casualties in dockyard. ACHERON stern blown off and BULLDOG damaged by splinters. Heavy damage in the city. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1844/24 to Adty.) Air-raid at about 1600/24 by about 30 aircraft One aircraft at least twice size of rest and dark coloured seems to have caused the very large crater at southsea with a very heavy bomb. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1908/24 to Adty.) Details of damage in dockyard. Killed 24 known possibly more, injured 42 of whom 6 seriously. No fires. No guns. (C. in C., Portsmouth 0003/25 to Adty.) Damage to VERNON. (Supt. C.E. Portsmouth 1435/25). My 1908/24. Large crater not now thought to be abnormal, but due to way debris fell. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1635/25 to Adty.)

1

War Diary

MOST SECRET

24.8.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Paddle Minesweepers Will be working from 1100 to 2000/25 and from 0800 to 1700/26 three miles either side of 56°36' N. between 2°6' W. and 1°8' W. Provide A/A protection. Code Word PADDLE. (H.Q.F.C. 1230/24 to 13 Group).

Plymouth Since my 1406/7 one Red mine detonated 0820/24 at 171° 11 cables from Breakwater Light. This mine at least 30 days delay action. (C. in C., W.A. 1422/24 to Adty.)

Yarmouth F.O.I.C. Yarmouth reports about 40 mushrooms exploded on beaches in Yarmouth area during night 23/24. High tide and strong wind. Seems desirable some action be taken. (C. in C., Nore 1526/24 to G.O. C. in C., Home Forces).

Swansea Mine exploded in fishing boat trawling at about 238° Port Talbot South Pier 1.4 miles. No casualties. (N.O.I.C. Swansea 1909/24 to Adty.)

Enemy Intelligence

Brest At 0040/24, three Naval vessels at jetty in S.W. corner of Harbour. (H.Q.B.C. 2308/24).

Norwegian Coast At 1230/24 in 61°40' N. 4°56' E. one M/V about 7000 tons, laden, and steering 180° at 10 knots. (Donibristle 1705/24).
At 1258/24 in 62°4' N. 5°8' E. a Norwegian M/V 2500 tons lightly laden and steering 315° at 8 knots. (Donibristle 1705/24).
At 1300/24 in 62°8' N. 5°2' E. a Norwegian M/V of 1000 tons steering 180° at 6 knots. (Donibristle 1705/24).

Dunkirk
Dieppe No shipping activity at 1100/24. (PIU 2038/24).

Amsterdam At 1305/24 about 500 barges in I.J. river, or moving in from Zuider Zee. (H.Q.B.C. 2225/25).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

24.8.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Paddle Minesweepers Will be working from 1100 to 2000/25 and from 0800 to 1700/26 three miles either side of 56°36' N. between 2°6' W. and 1°8' W. Provide A/A protection. Code Word PADDLE. (H.Q.F.C. 1230/24 to 13 Group).

Plymouth Since my 1406/7 one Red mine detonated 0820/24 at 171° 11 cables from Breakwater Light. This mine at least 30 days delay action. (C. in C., W.A. 1422/24 to Adty.)

Yarmouth F.O.I.C. Yarmouth reports about 40 mushrooms exploded on beaches in Yarmouth area during night 23/24. High tide and strong wind. Seems desirable some action be taken. (C. in C., Nore 1526/24 to G.O. C. in C., Home Forces).

Swansea Mine exploded in fishing boat trawling at about 238° Port Talbot South Pier 1.4 miles. No casualties. (N.O.I.C. Swansea 1909/24 to Adty.)

Enemy Intelligence

Brest At 0040/24, three Naval vessels at jetty in S.W. corner of Harbour. (H.Q.B.C. 2308/24).

Norwegian Coast At 1230/24 in 61°40' N. 4°56' E. one M/V about 7000 tons, laden, and steering 180° at 10 knots. (Donibristle 1705/24).
At 1258/24 in 62°4' N. 5°8' E. a Norwegian M/V 2500 tons lightly laden and steering 315° at 8 knots. (Donibristle 1705/24).
At 1300/24 in 62°8' N. 5°2' E. a Norwegian M/V of 1000 tons steering 180° at 6 knots. (Donibristle 1705/24).

Dunkirk
Dieppe No shipping activity at 1100/24. (PIU 2038/24).

Amsterdam At 1305/24 about 500 barges in I.J. river, or moving in from Zuider Zee. (H.Q.B.C. 2225/25).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

24.8.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

MANCHESTER CITY		To leave Rosyth 31/8. C. in C., H.F. to provide destroyer escort (C. in C., Rosyth, 1031/24).
Convoys	OB.205	Route (C. in C., W.A., 1441/24).
	OA.203	JASON to join (C. in C., W.A. 1834/24). Position 1420/24 (HIBISCUS 1415/24).
	TC.7	Destination altered to Clyde (D.O.D.(F) 1929/24).
	CW.10 CE.10	Time-tables (C. in C., Nore, 1924/24).
	OA.206	Route etc. (C. in C., W.A. 1442/24).
	HX.69	Advance sailing telegram. (S.C.N.O., Halifax, 1445/24).
	OB.203	List and destinations. (N.C.S.O., Liverpool, 1622/24).
ERIN		Route to Montreal (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1701/24).
ABOSSO		Military Freight ship. Route to Freetown (D. of S.T. 2200/24).
Lights		Between Methil and Kinnaird Head for convoys (C. in C., Rosyth, 1920/24).
Convoy Dividing Line		Instituted. Position. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1825/24. Adty. General Mge. 787AZ).
GOTEBURG		Swedish GOTEBORG with 112 British interned soldiers eight British volunteers and five Quakers expects to leave Petsamo for Iceland between 1400 and 1600 on 27/8 routed by Germans through following positions - thence to Iceland. As Germans are regarding this trip as great concession, it seems desirable that we should agree to their route instructions now to avoid any chance of their re-considering their decision. Nationality mark and characteristics same as for previous voyage. (N.A. Stockholm, 1117/24).

1

War Diary

MOST SECRET

24.8.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

E. Coast Convoys, Lights. Propose following arrangements for lights between Methil and Kinnaird Head for outward and homeward convoys. S.O. escort of Southbound convoy to report expected time of arrival Kinnaird Head with speed of advance when off Duncansby Head. On receipt of this signal C. in C., Rosyth will arrange for Kinnaird Head, Girdleness Tod Head, Bell Rock, May Island, Barns Ness to be exhibited one hour before expected time of arrival at these points based on speed of advance to one hour after under the following restrictions. All lights being exhibited for 5 minutes after every hour and half during this period. Buchan Ness will always be exhibited for 5 minutes after each hour and half hour between sunset and sunrise. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1920/24).

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

SAINT DUNSTAN — Damaged and adrift at 55°41' N. 7°29' W. (WANDERER 0736/24 to C. in C., W.A.)

VINGA — My 1018/22. Arrived Cape Town. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1028/24).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

24.8.1940.
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace"

DEVONSHIRE — Ammunition (D.T.D.S. 1340/24)

BARHAM — and 4 destroyers. Orders for preliminary movements. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1309/24)

See Operations Volume. Ammunition (C. in C., H.F. 1801/24) Route (C. in C., W.A. 1907/24)

Forces & Command — A.C.N.S. (H) 1754/24. See Operations Volume.

RESOLUTION — Ammunition (S.O.Force H 1857/24)

North Atlantic

SPHINX CANADIAN — French N.A. Madrid informs me French Hospital ships SPHINX and CANADIAN will call at Gibraltar 26/8 to receive routeing instructions. They will then proceed to Great Britain to collect 3000 French wounded. (A.N.A.Madrid 1813/24)

Movements — My 1245/24. ARK ROYAL, ENTERPRISE and 3 destroyers sail 0700/25 for flying excusions RENOWN and 4 destroyers sail 2030/25 (S.O. Force H. 2247/24)

South Atlantic

Reinforcements for M.E. — Arrangements (D.O.D. (F) 0046/24 to C. in C. S.A., C. in C., E.I.) See Operations Volume.

Operations HATS — C. in C., S.A. 1131/24 to C. in C., W.A. see Mediterranean.

Cable — Capetown- St. Helena cable down 0845/24. about 120 miles from Cape Town. Re repairs (N.O.i/c) Simonstown 1135/24)

? U-Boat BRITISH GRENADIER's report — 1825/12 in 10° 39' S. 44° 58' E., ship passed over and struck submerged object believed U-Boat. (S.O. (1) Capetown 1250/24)

/CORNWALL.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

24.8.1940.
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic- Contd.

CORNWALL — To escort W.S. 2 (B) from Capetown to R.V. with KANIMBLA in (position) date, and then return to Simonstown afterwards returning to Freetown (C. in C., S.A. 1336/24)

Suspicious Ship — reported by Dutch SS STRAAT MALAKKA 0800 G.M.T/23 in 35° 21' S., 24° 21'E. Resembled German SONECK. No ship of this description known to be in vicinity (S.O.)1) Capetown 1815/24)

MORETON BAY — To be sailed for Freetown (C. in C., S.A. 2225/24 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown)

VINGA — (Reported overdue 22/8) Arrived Capetown (S.O.(1) Capetown 1028/24)

Suspicious Ship — My 1113/23. SAINT LINDSAY arrived at Santos 23/8. Master SAINT AGNES has now been interviewed. Behavior of ship reported by him in 24° S., 6° E., August 12 was highly suspicious. (C. in C., S.A., 1721/24)

A.M.C's — The prior importance of Rio de Janeiro and Plate (corrupt group) area and shortage of H.M. Ships has hitherto made it impossible to give adequate protection to trade route north of 015° south. Now that three A.M.C's are available for South American trade routes I intend basing one of them on Freetown to operate in area north of 015° S., leaving R.A.S.A.D. to operate cruisers and two A.M.C's to south of this latitude.

ALCANTARA will be the first A.M.C. to be based at Freetown. Date on which this will come into force depends on arrangements for your return to United Kingdom. Proposal. (C. in C., S.A. 1151/24 to RASAD)

/Raiders Dispositions.

War Diary

MOST SECRET
24.8.1940.
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic- Contd.

Raiders, Dispositions

The depredations of GRAF SPEE on Cape route and recent raider on South American route have proved need for constant patrol on these important trade routes.
My 1115/23 gives my intentions as regards South American routes but I am seriously concerned as regards Cape routes. Whenever cruisers have been available I have employed them as far as possible in giving protection to large amount of shipping between Cape and Freetown, but ever increasing need of cruisers to escort troop convoys and for other duties will leave few cruisers to (corrupt group) patrol Cape routes.

DELHI and DRAGON are invaluable for other duties and I consider it preferable to employ ships with high endurance on trade routes. I therefore suggest two fast A.M.C's with high endurance be diverted from their normal escort duties and be employed in patrolling Cape routes enabling one to be always in area between St. Helena and Ascension. With reference to your 1857/23, this would necessitate some SL and SLF convoys being combined but two A.M.C's could be used as troop convoy escorts when occasion demanded. I would select CANTON and CARNARVON CASTLE for this duty. (C. in C., S.A. 1317/24 to Adty.)

Raiders and Shipping Movements

During the period of recent enemy attacks on shipping off Cape Verde Is. and in South Atlantic, 6 ships, reported by Ministry of Shipping as calling at Freetown, failed to do so and were considered and reported overdue. These ships have since arrived at other ports.
Enquiry into 2 of theses cases, DRAMATIST and MASUNDA, shows that they were ordered to proceed direct during the night and day respectively, which they duly did.
As dispositions of warships patrolling trade routes are affected by deductions drawn from overdue decoys it is requested that importance of correct information of such matters should be brought to notice of Ministry of Shipping.
(C. in C., S.A. 1845/24 to Admty.)

/ Mediterranean.....

MOST SECRET

24.8.1940.
Saturday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Bombing of Bomba	Asking why C. in C., Med., does not want F.A.A. mentioned (1st S.L. 1059/24) Reply 1005/25.
JANUS	Expected to arrive Malta 0800/26 to replace HOSTILE. C.S. 3. pass to JANUS. (C. in C., Med. 1041/24)
AJAX, ARGUS A.P. 2. A.P. 1.	AJAX 1040/22. Request confirmation ARGUS is included in A.P. 2. (C. in C., S.A. 1131/24 to C. in C., W.A. Passage of A.P.2. A.P. 1. to destinations is urgent. Every step possible to be taken to eliminate delays. (D.C.D. (F) 2118/24)
Operation "MATS"	R.V. with RENOWN, ARK ROYAL, ENTERPRISE and destroyers in position E at 0800/27. A/A exercise will be carried out (S.O. Force H. 1245/24 to R.A. (A) Medn. Fleet) Route (C. in C., W.A. 1554/24 to R.A. (A) Medn. in ILLUSTRIOUS)
Operation "BOMBS"	Summary of operation (F.O.C. Force H. 1514/24) See Mediterranean Volume.
Air Raid on Malta	1212-1238. 6 enemy bombers accompanied by 16 fighters bombed Hal Far and Kalafranca 4 Hurricanes up. One CR 42 shot down pilot rescued from sea. Enemy bombers believed damaged. Slight damage to buildings, Hal Far. One Swordfish seriously damaged No casualties or damage at Kalafranca. (H.Q. R.A.F., Malta 1638/24 Governor Malta 2115/24, F.O.i/c Malta 2231/24)
Air Raid on Tobruk	Night 23/24 one Bombay attacked Tobruk harbour 174 small bombs hit jetty area causing small fires. (H.Q., R.A.F. M.E. 1704/24)
Turkish Ferry Boats	Re Ferry boats for Turkish Government now being constructed U.K., two of which completed, Minister of Defence very anxious these ferry boats arrive Turkey as soon as possible. Request early decision and route to be followed. If through Mediterranean danger that Italians may seize them as exports from U.K. If this route considered unsafe Turkish General Staff wish ships to proceed via Cape. (N.A. Angora. 1143/24)

/Sweep.....

MOST SECRET

24.3.1940.
Saturday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Sweep by 3rd C.S.

M.A.Ankara's 1015/24. In case this report, if accurate, presages an attack on Crete I have directed F.O. 3rd C.S. with KENT, GLOUCESTER and 4 destroyers to pass through Kaso Straits and at 0100/25 to carry out a diverging sweep to the Northward. Recent reconnaissances in central Mediterranean have disclosed no increase in enemy surface forces in Dodecanese. (C. in C., Med. 2147/24)

FELIX ROUSSEL

To sail for Bombay earliest possible (D.S.D. 1816/24)

Troop Transports

Positions and details. DEVONSHIRE, LANCASHIRE, DILWARA, KHEDIVE, ISMAIL and EGRA (D.S.T.O. Suez. 1805/24)

Operations Projected

No questions from C. in C., Middle East (C. in C., Med. 2257/24 and Admty. reply 1st S.L., 2034/25) See Mediterranean Volume.

Mine Depot

Admty. 2258/20. and my 1641/24. Urging improved A/A defence at Haifa so that mine depot may be housed there. (C. in C., Med. 1645/24) (See Mediterranean Volume)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

24.8.1940.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies.

Reinforcements for M.E. — Arrangements (D.O.D. (F) 0046/24 to C. in C., SA.A., C. in C., E.I.) See Operations Volume.

Re including EMPRESS OF BRITAIN in W.S. 2 A. as a special case. (A.C.N.S.(F) 0040/24)

"Niblick" — W.O. want Echelons 2 and 3 to proceed to Egypt in B.N.5. Date. (D.S.T. 0047/24 to P.S.T.O. Bombay)

W.S. 2 B. KANIMBLA — Re R.V. etc., (C. in C., E.I. 0620 Z/24)

Shipping — Re interference of shipping in China, E.I. Australia and N.Z. Stations. (C. in C., E.I. 1128Z/24)

Air A/S Escorts, Red Sea — In view of reduced threat from submarines I have agreed to withdrawal of R.A.F. A/S escort of convoys in Red Sea between approx 016° N., to 021° N. Air effort thereby released will be directed against enemy air and naval bases. (C. in C., E.I. 1250Z/24)

Convoy B.N. 3A — Sailing Telegram (N.C.S.O.Aden 0750/24)

China

Proposals re Dutch Navy — Your 0931/13. Concur generally etc., (Hd. of M. 1334/24 to C. in C., China)

Raider — Re W/T D.F. (Capt. C.S. Singapore 1615Z/24)

MOST SECRET

24.8.1940.
Saturday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

Norwegian Ships	Re demanding defensive guns. (C. in C., A.W.I. is concerned about situation which is arising both as regards prestige and delay of sailings. Request immediate steps (proposed) (C. in C., A.W.I. 1051/24)
DIOMEDE Orders	Leave St. Lucia 27/8 and patrol route AA to North Eastwards returning St. Lucia 31/8. Leave St. Lucia 2/9 and proceed to Bermuda via Sombrero passage and route CC so as to arrive 6/9. SAN ADOLFO remain St. Lucia till further orders, (C. in C., A.W.I. 1241/24)
CARADOC	Orders to leave Bermuda (date) to escort troop transports LADY DRAKE, NEW NORTHLAND to Jamaica. Further movements (C. in C., A.W.I., 1242/24)
Bases	Asking to be kept informed of policy and negotiations re U.S.A. bases in British West Indies. (C. in C., A.W.I. 2221/24)

Australia & New Zealand

Raider	Possible track of Raider as worked out from bearings. Asking for remarks. (S.O. (1) Wellington 0825Z/24 to C. in C., c.S. Singapore) Reply (D.D.I.C. 1629/24)
YARRA	Departure delayed until 29/8 by defect. (Naval Board, Melbourne 0820Z/24)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

24.8.1940.
Saturday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

WESER — On 15/8. WESER at Manzanillo was reported to be loading 18,000 barrels of oil fuel and had demanded 1000 drums of diesel lubricating oil. (D.D.I.C., 1737/24 to C. in C., A.W.I., S.O. (1) Kingston)

NORBURG — Arrived Constatga in ballast.

SALZBURG — Left for Black Sea Port, general cargo.
(Mc Rae, Galati, 1124/24)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

MAYA — Tanker, arrived Varna 24/8 from Batavia.
(D.S. 355)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

24.8.1940.
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

TUIRA
Sunk 19/20 Aug.

Spanish 2610 tons, in position 54° 20' N 17° 22' W., BEDOUIN picked up ships boat with 14 survivors from Panama ship TUIRA sunk by U-boat in position 54° N., 20° W., at 0005 on Tuesday 20/8. Survivors state one other boat with first officer and 14 crew was in company but not seen for 2 days (Capt. (D) C. 2105/24)
In convoy (D.S. 355)

H.M.S. PENIWINKLE in 56° 00' N., 14° 10' W., picked up mate and 15 survivors including 4 British from TURIA, sunk by torpedo 2359/19. Other life boats last seen 2 days ago. (ROWEY, 2145/25)

H.M.S. PENZANCE
Sunk

My 0127/25. PENZANCE, escorting convoy S.C. One, sunk by U/Boat in 56° 16' N., 27° 19' W., at 1842/24 G.M.T. HAVELOCK, HIGHLANDER HURRICANE join convoy as soon as possible convoy routed through (position) to R.V. 0530 D.S.T./27 (2) VOLTAIRE joining as Ocean escort. (C. in C., W.A. 0147/25 to D.9., Cdre. SC 1 1714/24, D.C. 2355/24 to VOLTAIRE)

Sunk by explosion, cause not known, no survivors. (Commodore of Convoy S.C.1. 1748/24) Survivors were rescued by FYLINGDALE (4 officers 8 ratings) and BLAINMORE (believed 5 other rating) Latter ship no longer in touch. (Cpt. D.9. 2150/25)

LA BREA

British Tanker (6665 tons) torpedoed 57° 20' N., 11° 15' W., Taking to boats. (71833/24, 1237/24) GERANIUM to hunt. (C. in C., W.A. 1404/24)
Unknown tanker seen to disappear 7 miles S.E. Malin Head (Malin Head 1302/24)
Aircraft reports lifeboat with 11 men in 57° 33' N., 10° 3' W., (C. in C., W.A. 1758/24 to GERANIUM) Straggled from Convoy HX 65 (DS 355) D.O. Coastguard, Ugle, reports lifeboat with 17 men from LA BREA landed at Loch Boisdale, South Uist. Boat with 14 men still missing, last seen 1400 (F.O.I.C. Greenock, no T.O.O./Recd. 0120/26)

HERMES
Torpedoed
2050/21

Dutch tanker torpedoed 2050/21 36° 56' N 13° 15' W., has arrived Lisbon, no casualties (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1111/24)

HOST SECRET

War Diary

24.9.1940.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN (Contd.)

Submarines Reported

0615 — by local haddock boat, off Melby Holm in Papa Sound in diving trim steaming north (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 1456/21) Seen for 5 minutes then submerged, patches of oil seen near afterwards. Steering N.W. 3 miles S.W. of Melby Holm (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 1624/24) Considered doubtful (A.C.C.S. 1546/24)

55° 15' N., 20° 10' W., by aircraft HAVELOCK, HURRICANE searching (Capt. D.(O) 1653/24)

Estimated U/B Dispositions

Italian- 3 in Azores- Canaries Area.
German - 4 reported in Lorient.
1 between 54° and 55° N., in about 15° to 16° W. northward.
4 in N.W. Approaches.
1 in about 59° 27' N., 8° 54' W., at 2142/23 may be outward bound.
1 between Faroes and Shetlands homeward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1153/24)

Submarines Attacked

1919 — By aircraft 57° 57' N., 10° 30' W., 3 bombs. Extreme roughness of sea prevented observation of damage (A.C.H.Q. Plymouth 0125/25)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

25.8.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Dover - Reduction of A/A Defences

Following from V.A. Dover - begins. Instructions have been received by O.C. 75th A.A. Regiment at Dover to send away one battery of 3.7 inch guns H.A. and one battery of four Bofors. I view this reductions with considerable concern and would be glad if representations could be made in regard to it. Withdrawal of Bofors will necessitate a weakening of protection for 14-inch gun site which emphasises the urgency of supply of additional balloons to enable balloon barrage to be extended to cover it as asked for in my 1934/14. Request that early consideration be given to this supply 1112/25. Ends.

This action runs contrary to recorded conclusion 5(b) to D.C.O.S. (A.A.) 19 minutes. Adty. representative is of impression it was decided that ohly the question of reduction of balloons should be referred to Chiefs of Staffs but that consideration was to be given by A.O.C. in C. Fighter Command to necessity of retaining adequate defence including balloons for gun site. (D. of L.D. 1738/25 to W.O.)

Dover - Spotting for Naval Guns

Responsibility for recalling A/c spotting for Dover Naval Guns in event of hostile air activity needs to be determined. Considered that V.A. Dover should accept this and requested that Fighter Command may give early advice to Staff Office at Dover accordingly. (V.A. Dover 1216/25 to AO. C. in C., F.C.)

German Main Units Nothing to report. (D.D.I.C. 1744/25).

Nore, Portsmouth, and Western Approaches All available ships from Harwich to Falmouth inclusive raise steam. (D.C. 2254/25).

All Ships Raise Steam. (V.C.N.S. 2308/25 to Cs in C.)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

25.8.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

HIGHLANDER
HURRICANE
} Proceed towards 57° N. 24°W. Orders follow (C. in C., W.A., 0127/25 to D.9).

HAVELOCK
HURRICANE
} F.O.C.N.P.'s 2225/23. HAVELOCK and HURRICANE have been diverted to escort convoy S.C.1 (C. in C., W.A. 0139/25 to F.O.C.N.P.)

SALOPIAN — TARTAR, BEDOUIN, and ASHANTI to R/V with SALOPIAN and escort her to Liverpool, afterwards proceeding as in R.A.D.'s 0955/24. (C. in C., H.F. 0408/25 to D.6). SALOPIAN's position at 1800/25 estimated 55°25'N. 9°30' W. course 082, speed 12½ knots. (F.O.C.N.P. 1004/25 to Capt. (D)6).

Nore Command — Dispositions for night 25/26. (C. in C., Nore, 0800/25). Day patrols and movements to 1200/26. (C. in C., Nore 1200/25).

Nore Destroyers to join H.F. — VERSATILE, VIMY, ANTELOPE, and AMBUSCADE to be sailed for Scapa pm/26 to arrive before dark 27th. (C. in C., Nore, 1006/25 to F.O. Harwich). Request VERSATILE and VIMY be sailed for Rosyth, and ANTELOPE and AMBUSCADE for Tyne. Ships to arrive by noon 27th. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1218/25 to C. in C., Nore). Cancel my 1006/25. Ships to be sailed as in C. in C., Rosyth's 1218/25. (C. in C., Nore 1930/25 to F.O.I.C. Harwich)(C. in C., Nore, 2320/25 to F.O.I.C. Harwich).

Dover — Patrols for night 25/26. (V.A. Dover 1201/25).

VOLTAIRE — Position at 1000/25 54°9' N. 28°25' W. course 150° speed 13 knots. (VOLTAIRE 1215/25 to C. in C., W.A.). My 0048/25 and 0147/25. When HAVELOCK, HIGHLANDER, and HURRICANE join convoy, VOLTAIRE should proceed in execution of pevious orders. (A.C.N.S. H. 1328/25 to VOLTAIRE). Proceed to Halifax now (D.O.D.H. 1721/25 to VOLTAIRE).

ROSEMARY — Sail at 2000 for Milford Haven for escort duties. (C. in C., W.A. 1257/25 to ROSEMARY).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.8.1940.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

BIRMINGHAM / MANCHESTER — It is considered preferable to retain BIRMINGHAM with the Fleet until GLASGOW rejoins, and MANCHESTER until NIGERIA or KENYA is worked up (A.C.N.S. H. 1600/25 to C. in C., H.F.)

WANDERER — Transfer crew of ST.DUNSTAN to WITCH and proceed at 1400 to join WESTCOTT Convoy. Position at 1200/25 was 57° 3' N., 10° 3' (?) W., course 130, speed 8 knots. WITCH return to Belfast with Master and Crew to re-fuel. (Capt S/F Belfast 1240/25 to WANDERER) My 1702. Intend proceeding to join Convoy HX65B (WANDERER to Capt. S.F. Belfast)

Orkneys — Movements for Night 25/26 (A.C.C.S. 1626/25)

Portsmouth — Night movements for night 25/26. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1657/25 and 1827/25)

T.C. 7. — Adty's. 2311/23. Request amend R/V "A" to 57° 20' N., 20° W. at 1400/B.S.T./2 Sept. (C. in C., W.A. 1739/25 to F.O.C. 3 B.S.)

CALIFORNIA — Expect reach 55° 54' N. 10° W., at 2200/26 altering course then to 098° (CALIFORNIA 2034/25 to C. in C., W.A)

Western Approaches — Situation at 2000/25. (C. in C., W.A. 1453/25)

Operations

Operation PN (Maas & Scheldt) — One Unit of 70-foot M.T.B's to carry out tonight as in my 1300/18. (C. in C., Nore 1011/25 to S.O., M.T.B's Felixtowe)

Convoy MP (R.M. Brigade) — Expect to arrive Convoy MP 0630/26 (DUNCAN 1926/25 to A.C.C.S.)

/Submarines.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.8.1940.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines

H.44	Proceed to Patrol Zone (SO S/M Harwich 0519/25)
S/M Patrol	My 0902/25. Aircraft not to bombe any submarine or A/S vessel in following areas. (A.C.O.S. 1152/25) (C. in C., W.A. 1209/25) (C. in C., H.F. 1512/25)
CACHALOT	Leave present patrol, proceed well to seaward, and report. Then patrol to West of Ile de Croix to attack U-Boats entering or leaving Lorient. (FO S/M's 1247/25 to CACHALOT)
Adty's 1833/7/7	L.26 in Flow a.m. and p.m./25. (A.C.O.S. 1254/25)
	CACHALOT off Bordeaux. H.43 in Plymouth Area. (C. in C., W.A. 1444/25)
	Greenock Area (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1615/25)
	C. in C., H.F. 1124/23 and C. in C., W.A., 2234/22. Request your remarks, observing that PORPOISE will probably be employed in Biscay area and not in North. (A.C.N.S. H. 1556/25 to V.A.S.)
	Full review of S/M situation (V.A.S. 1946/25 to Adty.)
Positions	For following 24 hours at 0600/26 in Area B. (V.A.S. 1706/25) In Area A. (V.A.S 1709/25)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.8.1940
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

My 1852/24. Cancel R/C's of Tromso and Trondheim. (C. in C., Rosyth 0254/25 to Admty.

Proposed attack on E-Boats at Calais and Boulogne.

Orders for night 25/26. (H.Q.C.C. 1409/25 to 16 Group)

S.A.I.(A)

Cancelled owing to weather. (C. in C., Rosyth 1716/25 to Adty) Norther half is now being flown. (C. in C., Rosyth 2002/25 to Adty.)

Air Searches

For 26/8. (C. in C., Rosyth 1838/25)

Channel Sweep by Aircraft

3 aircraft of 500 Sqdn. to take off at 0100/26 to sweep channel from Dungeness to 50° 20' N., 0°E., 50° 25' N., 2° 10' W. returning to Dungeness, paying attention to Enemy Surface Vessels reported (See Enemy Intelligence) (Chatham 2350/25 to Adty.)

Enemy Air Activity

Unknown M/V

Bombed and sunk off Rockall (C. in C., W.A. 1643/25)

HAMPSHIRE COAST

485 tons Received 1717/25. Bombed, machine-gunned and am on fire off St.Ann's Head. (Burnham-onoSea Radio 1820/25 to Adty.

Bristol Channel

Air Raids of 24/25 August. Details of damage and casualties at Avonmouth, Swansea, Port Talbot, Barry, and Cardiff. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1630/25 to Adty.)

Milford Haven

Llanreath Oil Tanks attacked by 1 A/C at 1348/25. No further damage. Hope extinguish fire by tomorrow. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1826/25 to Adty.)

OSSIAN

British, 1514 tons. Bombed and machine-gunned at 1300/25 in 51° 45' N., 5° 47' W Slight damage and one slight casualty. (N.C.S.O . Milford Haven 2107/25 to Adty)

/Plymouth.....

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

Plymouth — Raided by believed 3 aircraft at 2126/25. Little damage. 2 Ord Seamen killed, 1 Rating seriously injured, 3 Dockyardmen slightly injured. (C. in C., W. A. 1020/26 to Adty.)

GOATHLAND — (3821 tons) Attacked 200 miles West of Cape Clear 1330/25. No details known. (D.O.R., D.S. 356)

BONITA — Danish (3198 tons) Bombed 0937, 48°N 10°W (200 miles west of Ushant) (Portishead Radio 0937/25)

R.F.A. LOCH — Attacked by aircraft in St. George's Channel No damage reported. (D.O.R)

Mining

Tyne — Port closed. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0451/25 to C. in C., Rosyth)

Blyth — Closed until completion of sweeping about noon 25th. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 0458/25) Port Open (N.O.I.C. Blyth 1120/25)

Hartlepool — My 1032/23. Hoped to open Hartlepool at 1300/25 and Tees at 1800/25. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1003/25 to Adty.)

SN Operations — My 1723/21 and Adty. 1529/23. Destroyer Screen will not be available until p.m. 27th. (C. in C., H.F. 1034/25 to R.A.M.L.)

FD. 25. — Operation postponed. PORPOISE to remain at Blyth at 8 hours notice. (V.A.S. 1406/25 to S. 6.)

Sweep off Maas and Scheldt — M.T.B's will carry out sweep to-night. Contact with Brown Ridge Patrol will not be carried out tonight. (V.A.S. 1438/25 to S/M H.34)(See Operations.)

SN. 14. — My 1431/23 and C. in C., H.F. 1034/25. Further amend SN. 14 as follows (R.A.M.L. 1601/25 to Adty.)

/Blyth.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.8.1940.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

Plymouth — Raided by believed 3 aircraft at 2126/25. Little damage. 2 Ord Seamen killed, 1 Rating seriously injured, 3 Dockyardmen slightly injured. (C. in C., W. A. 1020/26 to Adty.)

GOATHLAND — (3821 tons) Attacked 200 miles West of Cape Clear 1330/25. No details known. (D.O.R., D.S. 356)

BONITA — Danish (3198 tons) Bombed 0937, 48°N 10°W (200 miles west of Ushant) (Portishead Radio 0937/25)

R.F.A. LOCH — Attacked by aircraft in St. George's Channel No damage reported. (D.O.R)

Mining

Tyne — Port closed. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0451/25 to C. in C., Rosyth)

Blyth — Closed until completion of sweeping about noon 25th. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 0458/25) Port Open (N.O.I.C. Blyth 1120/25)

Hartlepool — My 1032/23. Hoped to open Hartlepool at 1300/25 and Tees at 1800/25. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1003/25 to Adty.)

SN Operations — My 1723/21 and Adty. 1529/23. Destroyer Screen will not be available until p.m. 27th. (C. in C., H.F. 1034/25 to R.A.M.L.)

FD. 25. — Operation postponed. PORPOISE to remain at Blyth at 8 hours notice. (V.A.S. 1406/25 to S. 6.)

Sweep off Maas and Scheldt — M.T.B's will carry out sweep to-night. Contact with Brown Ridge Patrol will not be carried out tonight. (V.A.S. 1438/25 to S/M H.34)(See Operations.)

SN. 14. — My 1431/23 and C. in C., H.F. 1034/25. Further amend SN. 14 as follows (R.A.M.L. 1601/25 to Adty.)

/Blyth.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.8.1940.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

Blyth Hartlepool Tyne Tees	Ports now Open. (C. in C., Rosyth 1628/25 to WOOLSTON, VERDUN.)
Harwich	One British Mark 14 Mine cut and sunk at 1230/25 in 51° 55' N., 1° 39' 36" E., (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1251/26 to Adty.)

Enemy Intelligence

La Pallice	At 0118/25, one ship about 6000 tons lying just S. of Pointe de Sablanceau; and at 0140/25 three small ships lying off Pointe de Chef de Baie. (H.Q.B.C. 0225/26)
Brest Canal	At 0327/25, one M/V 7000 tons stationary at the Canal Entrance. (H.Q.B.C. 0225/26)
Calais	At 1600/25, 8 miles 025° Calais, 9 M/S heading towards the Canal Entrance (H.Q.B.C. 0225/26)
Enemy Hospital Ship	At 1917/25 in 50° 15' N., 2° 12' W., one white ship with red crosses fore and aft no smoke, steering East at 10 knots, escorted by a black-painted Sea Plane with very long floats. Report by A/C X 59 (Chatham 2200/25 to Adty) At 1717/25 reported in 50° 16' N., 2° 12' W., Ship about 500 tons. Fog bank, possibly artificial, near Beachy Head. (C. in C., W.A. 2338/25 to VANSITTART, SHIKARI) One aircraft of 500 Sqdn. to take off at 0100/26 to locate and shadow and report at once if sighted. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 2355/25)
6 Enemy Surface Vessels	6 Enemy Surface Vessels reported at 2040/25 in 50° N., 1° 25'W., steering N.E. at 25 knots (Chatham 2350/25 to Adty.)
Imuiden	At 0230/25, two ships about 2000 tons near Southern Breakwater (H.Q.B.C. 2225/25)
Calais Minesweepers	At 1130/25 aircraft saw 15 minesweepers and another 8 minesweepers apparently sweeping N.E. from Calais about 2 miles from the town. (A.C.H.Q. 1400/25)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.8.1940.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

Blyth Hartlepool Tyne Tees	Ports now Open. (C. in C., Rosyth 1628/25 to WOOLSTON, VERDUN.)
Harwich	One British Mark 14 Mine cut and sunk at 1230/25 in 51° 55' N., 1° 39' 36" E., (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1251/26 to Adty.)

Enemy Intelligence

La Pallice	At 0118/25, one ship about 6000 tons lying just S. of Pointe de Sablanceau; and at 0140/25 three small ships lying off Pointe de Chef de Baie. (H.Q.B.C. 0225/26)
Brest Canal	At 0327/25, one M/V 7000 tons stationary at the Canal Entrance. (H.Q.B.C. 0225/26)
Calais	At 1600/25, 8 miles 025° Calais, 9 M/S heading towards the Canal Entrance (H.Q.B.C. 0225/26)
Enemy Hospital Ship	At 1917/25 in 50° 15' N., 2° 12' W., one white ship with red crosses fore and aft no smoke, steering East at 10 knots, escorted by a black-painted Sea Plane with very long floats. Report by A/C X 59 (Chatham 2200/25 to Adty) At 1717/25 reported in 50° 16' N., 2° 12' W., Ship about 500 tons. Fog bank, possibly artificial, near Beachy Head. (C. in C., W.A. 2338/25 to VANSITTART, SHIKARI) One aircraft of 500 Sqdn. to take off at 0100/26 to locate and shadow and report at once if sighted. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 2355/25)
6 Enemy Surface Vessels	6 Enemy Surface Vessels reported at 2040/25 in 50° N., 1° 25'W., steering N.W. at 25 knots (Chatham 2350/25 to Adty.)
Imuiden	At 0230/25, two ships about 2000 tons near Southern Breakwater (H.Q.B.C. 2225/25)
Calais Minesweepers	At 1130/25 aircraft saw 15 minesweepers and another 8 minesweepers apparently sweeping N.E. from Calais about 2 miles from the town. (A.C.H.Q. 1400/25)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.8.1940.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping
S.C. One	HAVELOCK, HURRICANE, HIGHLANDER have been diverted from escorting CALIFORNIA and SALOPIAN) to escort Convoy S.C. One. (C. in C., W.A. 0139/25) U-Boat in vicinity (See Submarines Reported. Main portion, 35 ships. Position.(HIGHLANDER 1809/25) CLARKIA to R.V., position (C. in C., W.A. 0956/25)
FN AND FS Escorts	C. in C., Rosyth's 1658/23. Escort for FS 63 and FN and FS 64 to 69 inclusive. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1107/25)
OA. 204	List and destinations (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0548/25, 0556/25) Sailed (C. in C., Rosyth 1121/25)
OBM 204	Escort and total (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 2155/25)
WN 10	Position (BLACKFLY 2300/25)
SL. 43	Orders to escort (C. in C., W.A. 1537/25)
OB.204	Route (C. in C., S.A. 15o3/25)
OB. 205	Route (N.C.SO.Liverpool 1202/25)
HG. 41 } OA.202 }	Clyde portions arrived (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1505/25)
Channel Convoys	My 2234/15, re Channel movements. Portland may be eliminated at your discretion. (D.T.D., 1636/25)
GOTEBORG	Ref. Military Attache's 2150/24. Ministry of Shipping presume continuance of time charter requested is for voyage from Iceland to United Kingdom and back. Presumably German safe conduct for return journey to Sweden is from Iceland to Petsamo. (Head of M. 1856/25)

/East Coast Convoys..

1

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.8.1940.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping-Contd.

East Coast Convoys

Inclusion of larger ocean going ships in East Coast convoys necessitates alteration in present arrangements of F.N. and F.S. convoys during winter months(1)Decided to run convoys of not less than 9 knots and of 500 tons gross and above.(2)Slow convoys to include ships of not less than 8 knots. Ships of more than 5000 tons gross likely to become unmanageable at reduced speed are not to be included in slow convoys. Convoys to start by running alternately as arranged by C. in C., Rosyth, who has discretion to make such alteration as experience shows to be necessary. New arraangements to come into force on Monday 16/9. Report to be made after one month's trial. (D.T.D. 1637/25)

A.M.C's

Use of cargo space. (See South Atlantic)

1

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.8.1940.
Sunday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

HIGHWEAR — British 1173 tons. Damaged in port quarter. Am escorting to Lisbon. Position 296° 39° N., 17° W. (WRESTLER 1200/25 to F.O.C.N.A.)

MORNING — British Tanker, 7705 tons. From Basra. Overdue at Cape Town since 21/8. (S.O.I. Capetown 0948/25)

ARENA — British Tanker 6362 tons. From Bahrein. Overdue Cape Town since 21/8. (S.O.I. Capetown 0948/25)

PEISANDER — British 6225 tons. My 1048/23. Arrived at Cape Town (S.O.I. Capetown 0948/25)

INVERNESS — British 4897 tons. My 1138/14. Arrived Durban (S.O.I. Capetown 0848/25)

HAVILDAR — (torpedoed 23/8) has arrived in Clyde in tow (D.O.R.)

BEACON GRANGE — (Bombed and set on fire 23/8) has been towed to Kirkwall and beached. Still on fire. Holds flooded and salvage in progress (D.O.R)

ST. DUNSTAN — (Torpedoed 23/8) Back probably broken. Tug has been sent. WANDERER has 16 of crew. WITCH landed 66 at Belfast (D.O.R)

ORCA — Yacht (damaged by enemy aircraft) is at Milford (D.O.R.)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

25.8.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace"

French Minesweepers

Adty. 0034/22 and 2329/23. COMMANDANT DOMINIE and COMMANDANT DUBOC are now required to join DEVONSHIRE at Clyde not later than (date). (D.O.D.(H) 1332/25 to C. in C., W.A.)

Troopships

Orders for ATHLONE CASTLE, BRITANNIC, DOMINION MONARCH and DURBAN CASTLE (D. of S.T. 2154/25 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool, and 2155/25, to F.O.I.C. Glasgow).

Adty. 1654/23. Requirements of ships enumerated for oil and water (D.O.D.(F) to C. in C., S.A. 1805/25).

Sailing orders to Masters of CASAMANCE, FOR LAMY, NEVADA and ANADYR withdrawn. Masters to receive instructions by SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA or IRESIDENT HOUDUCE. (D.O.D.(H), 1120/26).

North Atlantic

ROWALLAN CASTLE Report by Master of shelling by CIRCASSIA, 38.05 N., 20.48 W., D.R. (see 19/8). (F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1731/25).

HIGHWEAR Am escorting HIGHWEAR to Lisbon. My position 296°, 39° N., 17° W., 20. Damage to port quarter HIGHWEAR, pumps are keeping water. (WRESTLER, 1200/25 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic

INVERNESS Overdue, my 1138/14, Arrived Durban (S.O.I., Capetown, 1848/25).

PEISANDER Overdue, my 1048/23. Arrived Capetown. (S.O.I. Capetown, 0948/25).

MORNING (Ex-ANGLO MAERSK), from Basra, not arrived Capetown (S.O.I. Capetown, 0948/25).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

25.8.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic (Contd.)

ARENA	From Bahrein, due 21/8, not arrived Capetown (S.O.I., Capetown, 0948/25).
Troop Transport	D. of S.T. 2205/4 and Adty. 0040/24. Intended to transfer troops and children in BATORY destined for Singapore and Australia to STRATHAIRD while ships are at Capetown. (N.O.I.C., Simonstown, 1057/25). (D.O.D.(F) to N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0001/26).
Convoy WS.2F	Arrived Simonstown with CORNWALL. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1203/25).
MORETON BAY	Your 2225/24. Propose to retain MORETON BAY at Simonstown for 48 hours for overhauls (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1215/25 to C. in C., S.A.)
Cargo in A.M.Cs.	Your 1008/18. Requesting views with regard to embarkation at Freetown of non-inflammable cargo for U.K. Suggested before leaving U.K. full use be made of any available cargo space for Service and Government stores for Freetown. (D.T.D., 1617/25 to C. in C., S.A.)
SOMERSETSHIRE	Hospital ship. To proceed Freetown. (D.O.D.(H) to C. in C., W.A., 1740/25).
Trinidad Air School	Asking re accommodation for 50 officers, 40 P.O.'s, 400 ratings, and 35 to 40 aeroplanes. (Hd. of Air Branch to Colonial Office 1808/25).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

25.8.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Egypt — Asking for appreciation re Adty. 1931/22 and C. in C., M.E., P. 16981/22/8, to reach Chiefs of Staff, London, by 0800/26. (D.O.D. (F) to C. C. Med., 1339/25).

Coal for Turkey — Naval Secretary to Turkish Ministry of National Defence asks if 2500 to 3000 tons of best Welsh steam coal could be supplied for use of YAVUZ since Turkish coal makes too much smoke. No coal can be spared from Mediterranean Station. Request Adty. will inform N.A. Angora, direct if coal can be supplied from elsewhere. (C. in C., Med., 0005/25)

Malta Defences — Your 2015/22. Adty. fully concur as to necessity for bringing base defences of Malta as soon as possible to such a state that we can operate offensively from the Island. Matter already under discussion in Chiefs of Staff Committee but delay is of course due to provision of necessary forces and equipment. (V.C.N.S., 1830/25, to C. in C., Med.)

F.A.A. — Adty. 1058/24 and 1622/24. Reasons for publicity for F.A.A. aircraft working from Western Desert aerodromes. (See Mediterranean Volume). (C. in C., Med., to Adty., 1005/25).

Water Tankers — My 1014/21. Possibility of using Danubian tanker DANUBE SHELL II, LORD BYRON, SCOTLAND and KING GEORGE now at Alexandria. (P.S.T.O., Egypt, 1221/25 to D. of S.T.)

Bardia Attacked — My 1359/23. Operations A and B carried out successfully, results not considerable owing to darkness. LADYBIRD penetrated into Bardia close to pier but no shipping was found. Shore targets engaged by WATERHEN and LADYBIRD. Consider both Bomba and Bardia received a good shake up and that effect on morale of enemy will be out of proportion to targets hit. Request no mention be made of LADYBIRD, as enemy is probably unaware that she was used. Intend issuing following communique. During the night 23rd to 24th our Naval Forces attacked Italian harbour of Bardia, Where there are troop concentrations, and seaplane base at Bomba. Both places were

Successfully .....

War Diary

MOST SECRET

25.8.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (Contd.)

Bardia Attacked (Contd.) Successfully bombarded and in the case of Bardia our forces penetrated into harbour engaging targets at point blank range. Our ships had no casualties. (C. in C., Med., 1321/25).

Mining Operation M.A.S. one, para 14. For PERSEUS read PROTEUS. (Capt. (S) 1, 1725/25).

French Seamen Asking whether there is any standard scheme fo for employment of French personnel. (S.B.N.O., Suez Canal, 1212/25 to C. in C., Med.)

Mediterranean - Air

Enemy Intelligence Information available Gibraltar of Italian and French Naval and Air Force dispositions is inadequate for efficient conduct of operations. Request regular summaries supplemented by any important modifications to be signalled particularly when operations such as HATS are about to commence or are in progress. Request summary on 27/8. (S.O., Force H., 1845/25 to C. in C., Med.)

British Activity H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. Operational Summary. 77. Night 24-25/8, 1 Bombay, 216 Sqdn. attacked Bardia and El Adem. Bardia results unobserved. El Adem hits on hangars. 25/8. 230 and 228 Sqdns. Two Reccos. West of Morea co-operating with naval forces in Aegean. Results unknown. 228 Sqdn. recco. Dodecanese to investigate reported troop convoy, no enemy sighted. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 0958/26).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

25.8.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Convoy WS.2	Your 0858/24. In accordance with Adty. 0040/24 to C. in C., E.I. personnel for Egypt in STRATHAIRD will be transferred at Cape to BATORY which will proceed Egypt direct in W.S.2A. Also under consideration with C. in C., E.I. that EMPRESS OF BRITAIN should proceed direct in WS.2A and if this is approved there will be no personnel ex WS.2 for onward conveyance from India to Egypt. (D. of S.T. 2008/25 to P.S.T.O. Bombay).
ROYAL SOVEREIGN	Date of sailing. (C. in C., E.I., to S.N.O. Red Sea, 0812Z/25).
ETHIOPIA CORBRAE	My 0750/24 expected time of arrival Port Sudan ETHIOPIA for pm/26 read pm/27 CORBRAE for am/27 read am/28. (N.C.S.O. Aden, 0523Z/25).
Convoy BN.4	Details and route. (N.C.S.O. Bombay, 0545Z/25)

America & West Indies

Newfoundland Bases	Views on Governor Newfoundland's telegram 552 to S. of S. for Dominions. Suggest no lease of bases in Newfoundland be granted if Canada can assume responsibility. (C. in C., A.W.I., 0841/25)(See Operations Volume).
Enemy Unit	D/F bearings, unreliable fix, 52° N., 43° W., (C. in C., A.W.I., 2348/25). Other bearings of this unit. Signal probably from U/B who sank YEWCREST (D.D.I.C., 1009/26).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

25.8.40.
Sunday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

LUVSEE — Split reports a ship probably LUVSEE reported at Zelenika loading about 3000 tons of bauxite for Trieste. Expects to sail 26/8. (S.O.(I) Alexandria 1211/25)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

FRANCA FASSIO — My 1030/22. FRANCA FASSIO expected to arrive Barcelona 27/8 or 28/8 and to sail 29/8 or 30/8. (Madrid, 1111/25).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

25.8.40.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

EMPIRE MERLIN — British 5763 tons. In convoy HX.65A. Torpedoed in position 58.34 N., 11.34 W. (SKEENA, 0154/25, 0315/25, 0954/25). Aircraft to search, ANTHONY and AMAZON hunting (A.C.H.Q. Plymouth, 0518/25). Have one survivor. (GODETIA 0745/25) (C. in C., W.A., 1038/25). Is EMPIRE MERLIN still afloat? Did you attack U-boat? (C. in C., W.A., 1056/25). Have been searching to eastward of position in your 1038. My position, course and speed 58.33 N. 9.39 W. 270°, 15 knots. (ANTHONY 1631/25).

ATHELCREST sunk — British, 6825 tons, tanker. Torpedoed same time as EMPIRE MERLIN. Was danger to navigation and have sunk her by gunfire. Have Master and 5 other survivors (GODETIA, 0745/25, SKEENA, 0954/25, C. in C., W.A., 1038/25). Ships not to be sunk if salvageable because they are dangerous to navigation without previous reference to me. (C. in C., W.A., 1056/25). In convoy HX.65A.

JAMAICA PIONEER sunk — British, 5471 tons, torpedoed 57.02 N., 11.04 W. (Portishead Radio, 1727/25). GERANIUM to attack U/Boat. (C. in C., W.A. 1749/25). ANTHONY and AMAZON to join hunt, under orders of Captain, Striking Force, aircraft co-operating. (C. in C., W.A., 1923/25). My position, course and speed, 58.18 N., 10.32 W., 194° 25 knots. (ANTHONY 2116/25). Picked up 11 officers and 29 crew of JAMAICA PIONEER at 1700 and 1745 in position 56.39 N., 10.03 W., and 56.34 N., 10.16 W., no sick or injured. One boat with 15 including master still missing. Only casualty chief officer killed. AMAZON and GERANIUM in company. (ANTHONY, 1842/26). Sailing independently (D.S. 356). Sunk (D.S.357).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

25.8.40.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked (Contd.)

PECTEN	Reported as TORR HEAD, torpedoed 56.22 N., 07.55 W. (WESTCOTT, 1900/25). Later reported as PECTEN (WESTCOTT, 1950/25). WANDERER to return to Belfast with survivors (Capt., Striking Force, 1818/25). Cancel my 1818. WITCH and WANDERER to proceed 56.22 N., 07.55 W. and hunt U-boat. (Capt., Striking Force, Belfast, 2010/25). VANITY to join hunt. (C. in C., W.A., 2246/25). M.L. 109 to search, returning Coleraine if weather unsuitable (Capt., S.F., 0032/26). In convoy HX.65A.
YEWCREST sunk	British 3774 tons. Received 2108 G.M.T. de CZEL, GLZB, 55.10 N., 25.00 W. Attacked by submarine, sinking fast 2030/25. (Portishead Radio, 2212/25). YEWCREST sunk by U/B at 2130/25 in 55.10 N., 25.00 W. (D.D.I.C. 1009/26). Destroyer to assist (C. in C., W.A., 2244/25). HIGHLANDER detailed (Capt. D.9, 2343/25). YEWCREST sunk by U-boat gunfire. Fireman killed in action, remainder saved, 5 wounded. Proceeding on track of HX.66. Insufficient fuel. (HIGHLANDER, 1714/26). Had dispersed from convoy OB.201.
HARPALYCE	British 5169 tons, torpedoed in convoy HX.65A. in position 58.52 N., 6.34 W. (SKEENA, 2254/25, 0055/26). HARPALYCE sunk (SKEENA, 0855/26). Have you sighted rescue ships. Still 2 ships in convoy unaccounted for. (SKEENA to GODETIA 1425/26). Not sighted rescue ships apart from tug. (GODETIA, 1615/26).
STAKESBY	British, 3900 tons, torpedoed in convoy HX.65A in position 58.52 N., 6.34 W. (SKEENA, 2254/25, 0043/26, 0055/26). Tug THAMES sent to assist. (A.C.O.S., 0157/26). GODETIA sent to stand by. Ship badly burnt. (SKEENA 0855/26). Ship torpedoed 23 miles N. of Butt of Lewis. 36 survivors landed by Norwegian CETUS at Stornoway. One casualty, ship's officer, injured. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 0934/26). Reported by aircraft in position 58.50 N., 0600 W. at 0800 (A.C.O.S., 0830/26, to THAMES).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

25.8.40.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

Vicinity of Convoy SC.1

Bearings of a transmission of 44 groups made on 11125 k/cs at 0823/24 indicated that a U/B might have been in the vicinity of convoy SC.1. A further transmission of 35 groups, on 5660 k/cs, at 0017/25 together with the sinkings of PENZANCE at 1842 G.M.T. 24th confirms this. In view of possibility of the U/B original signal being a shadowing report to surface vessel VOLTAIRE has been ordered to join convoy SC.1. (D.O.D.(H) 0137/25).

1827 — A.F. message 57.02 N., 11.04 W. at 1727 G.M.T (D.D.I.C. 1920/25).

2119 } 2147 } — D/F unidentified enemy unit, probably U-boat, between 55° and 57° N., and west of 25° W. (D.D.I.C. 2229/25).

0154 — 58.34 N., 11.34 W. reliable fix. AMAZON and ANTHONY to attack. (C. in C., W.A., 0327/25).

1900 — A.F. message, 56.22 N., 7.55 W. at 1800 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 2036/25).

2254 — U/B in position 58.52 N., 6.34 W. at 2254/25 (F.O. Submarines, 0121/26). (HARPALYCE and STRAKESBY torpedoed).

0745 — Reported by aircraft 15 group, 58.30 N., 10.15 W. (H.Q., C.C. 1820/25).

Estimated dispositions

Italian - 3 in Azores - Canaries area.
German - 4 in N.W. Approaches.
also:
1 in 57° 57' N., 10°30' W. at 1919/24, probably outward bound.
1 in 58° 34' N. 11° 34' W. at 0154/25 is probably homeward bound.
1 N.W. of Rockall homeward bound.
1 in 56° 16' N. 27° 19' W. may be bound for neighbourhood of Halifax and may arrive there about 31st August.
1 in about 61° N. between 0° and 1° E. homeward bound.
(D.D.I.C. 1233/25, F.O. S/ms 1952/25).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

25.8.40.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Attacked

2307 — By SKEENA 58.52 N., 6.34 W. (HARPALYCE sunk). Obtained good contact and one attack carried out. Echo not regained and further search fruitless. (SKEENA, 0855/26).

1345 — By aircraft, 55.29 N., 7.13 W. WANDERER ordered to position (S.O., Striking Force, 1431/25)(H.Q., C.C., 1820/25).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

26.8.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Steam in all Ships — Cancel my 2254/25 and my 2308/25. (A.C.N.S.(H) 0130/26 to C's in C.). Revert to usual notice for steam. (C. in C., H.F., 0140/26 to H.F.).

Enemy Large Warships — Situation unchanged. (D.D.I.C. 1347/26).

Policy

Enemy Hospital Ships — 64 small vessels marked with red cross and notified by Germans as detailed for rescuing airmen will not be recognised by H.M. Govt. as entitled to Red Cross protection and after midnight 30/31 Aug. will be liable to be captured and sunk. Till that midnight these vessels should be dealt with under Article 4 of the Tenth Hague Convention, see Prize Manual page 103. List of accepted Hospital ships will be issued as A.F.O. (1st S.L. 1903/26).

GOTEBORG — On arrival at Iceland with repatriated personnel about 3rd Sept. Owners wish to deliver ship to Ministry of Shipping in fulfilment of previous but postponed agreement between them. (N.A. Stockholm, 1525/26 to Adty.)

Movements

Scapa — Arrived SOBIESKI, KENYA, ETTRICK, DUNCAN, CATTISTOCK, WOLVERINE, VOLUNTEER at 0730. (F.O.C.O.S. 0856/26 to Adty.)

Dover — Patrols for night 26/27 (V.A. Dover, 1129/26).

Nore Command — Patrols for Week from 26/8. (C. in C., Nore, 1300/26 to D.16, D.21).

Humber — Patrol O, night 25/26. CAMPBELL, VERSATILE, VIVACIOUS, VIMY. (F.O. Humber Fxeo 1510/26).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

26.8.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements (Contd.)

Harwich — Dispositions and movements to 1200/27. (N.O.I.C. Harwich, 1507/26).

Portsmouth — Movements for night 26/27. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1857/26 to Adty.)

D.20 — In EXPRESS, ESK, ICARUS, and TEVIOT BANK in company sailed from Humber at 1900/26. (F.O. Humber 1912/26 to Adty.)

Orkneys — State of A/S trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1930/26 to Adty.)

VANITY — Returning to Greenock to re-fuel. Expect arrive 0800/27. (VANITY 2015/26 to C. in C., W.A.).

Operations

Iceland (Minefield at Hrutafiord) — CHALLENGER's 2214/24. G.O.C. asks for Minefield in Hrutafiord. C.O. CHALLENGER estimates necessary Survey can be completed by 20/9. Propose this be done. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1035/26 to Adty.)
My 1035/26. If coast defence batteries asked for by G.O.C. Iceland are being supplied for Hrutafiord I consider Fiord suitable for observation mining. Mines to be laid after completion Icodisfiord (your 1142/10). (F.O.I.C. Iceland, 1300/26 to Adty.)

E-Boats

Type unknown enemy war motor boat at 170° Nab. (Portsmouth W/T 0050/26 to Portland W/T)(C. in C., Portsmouth, 0050/26 to Adty.)

8 miles south of D.Helder 8 miles from coast ~~mf~~ at 1125/26 8 small ships 15 to 20 knots wash like destroyer, course north 2 rows of 4, 1 ahead, 1 astern, smaller than destroyers but larger than M.T.Bs. Bomber Command Report. (O.I.C., 1350/26).

War Diary

26.8.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

E-Boats (Contd.)

At 2002/26 aircraft saw 5 E-boats in 50.2 N., 1.38 W. and 2 more 2 miles East of them, steering N.E. at 25 knots. (Chatham, A.C.H.Q. 2140/26)(C. in C., Portsmouth 2030/26 to SALADIN).

Following from Poole:-
QV1 reports that at 2112/26 she sighted approx. 5 fast moving motor boats unidentified steaming easterly course in positions 50° 32' N. 1°48'W. T.O.O. 1035. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1615/27 to Adty.)

Submarines

H.34 — Expect to pass south Sheppey Head at 0900 (S/m H.34 to S.O. S/ms Harwich).

V.A.S. 1946/25/8/40. The solution would appear to be that TITANIA should be re-allocated for duty as a depot ship for submarines at the Clyde and that the FORTH should remain at Rosyth. I am of the opinion that promiscuous hunting of U-boats is less effective employment for A/S vessels of all sorts than using them as escorts to convoys except at very definite focal areas where good air co-operation is available almost continuously. (C. in C., H.F. 1131/26 to Adty.)

Adty. 1833/7/7 — Western Approaches movements. (C. in C., W.A. 1526/26). Greenock Area. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1701/26 to Adty.). Portsmouth L.27 at 8 hours notice (C. in C., Portsmouth 1825/26 to Adty.)

Movements — Night 26/27. (A.C.O.S. 1636/26).

TAKU.PORPOISE — As soon as escort is available TAKU and PORPOISE are to be sailed for Rothesay being temporarily attached to 7th s/m Flotilla. They will be required for patrols in Bay of Biscay orders forwhich will be sent to S.7. PORPOISE will be required to embark mines at Clyde arrangements for which are being made by Adty. (V.A.S. 1648/26 to S.2. S.26).

Positions — For following 24 hours at 0600/27 in area A. (V.A.S. 1704/26). In area B. (V.A.S.1706/26).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

26.8.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines (Contd.)

STURGEON / SWORDFISH — Leave Blyth at 1830 and 2030/27 for following patrols. (Capt. S.6 1939/26).

British Air Activity

Boulogne — Attacked between 0130/26 and 0140/26. Incendiary bombs exploded on docks and buildings, but no results seen. No E-boats seen. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 0615/26 to Adty.)

Calais — Attacked at 0355/26. Bombs dropped to attack E-boats. Results not observed. (H.Q.C.C. Chatham, 0700/26 to Adty.)

Sogne Fiord / Kors Fiord — Propose send Skuas to attack shipping. Leaving Sumburgh and Hatston about 1530/26. (Hatston 1215/26 to A.C.O.S.). Approved, subject to weather conditions. (A.C.O.S. 1301/26 to Hatston). My 1215/26. Postponed. Weather unsuitable today. (Hatston 1440/26 to A.C.O.S.).

Attack on E-boats — At 2003/26, aircraft bombed 5 E-boats at 5o° 2' N. 1°38' W. No hits. (Chatham, A.C.H.Q. 2140/26).

Tromso — At 0315/26 aircraft attacked 5 camouflaged M/Vs, two of 3000 tons, two of 2000 tons, and one of 1000 tons, lying in Sound off Tromso Harbour. Raked decks and bridge of one M/V. Damage unknown. (Donibristle 1258/26 to Adty.).

Enemy Air Activity

Portland — Between 2330/25 and 0015/26 an enemy seaplane dropped many incendiary bombs near Mere Oil tanks, OSPREY, and Portland Bill W/T station. All fires promptly extinguished. (F.O.I.C. Portland 0135/26 to Adty.)

MINORCA. — British, 1123 tons, Aberdeen to Methil, attacked by single aircraft at 2100/26 when 5 miles S.E. of Girdleness. Two bombs. No damage or casualties. (C. in C., Rosyth 1203/27 to Adty.)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

26.8.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity (Contd.)

Portsmouth

Portsdown Hill W/T reports Enemy aircraft 110° making very strong weather report signals (C. in C., Portsmouth 1027/26 to Adty.).

Fort Cumberland attacked at 1630/26. 60 to 70 bombs dropped in about 2 minutes. Considerable damage. 4 officers and 4 ranks killed, 3 officers and 10 other ranks wounded. (C. in C., Portsmouth 2256/26 to Adty.)

Convoy HX.65A.
CAPE YORK, 5027 tons, on fire and sunk.
REMUERA, 11,445 tons, sunk.

Enemy aircraft bombing at 57°4' N., 1°40' W. (STORK 2050/26). 3 aircraft. No hits. (LONDONDERRY 2055/26). Attack continuing. (LONDONDERRY 2106/26). CAPE YORK hit by bomb. Am standing by at 045° Kinnaird Head 8 miles. (EGRET 2201/26 to C. in C. Rosyth). Tug SAUCY proceeding from Peterhead now. (C. in C., Rosyth 2251/26 to EGRET and 2301/26 to Adty.). CAPE YORK holed, but possibly salvable. REMUERA bombed and sunk close to CAPE YORK. Full crews of both ships on board EGRET. (EGRET 2328/26 to C. in C. Rosyth). CAPE YORK on fire from amidships aft. Trying to take intow at 57°45' N. 1°38' W. (EGRET 0804/27 to Adty.) CAPE YORK sank 055° Rattray Head 8 miles at 1124/27. (C. in C., Rosyth 1223/27 to Adty.)

My 2101/26. Convoy HX.65A attacked by bombs and torpedoes from about 10 aircraft between 2100 and 2210/26. Between 16 and 20 bombs dropped and several torpedoes fired, LOWESTOFT definitely shot down 1 aircraft and damaged a second, which were seen to fall in the water by two lookouts. One other probably damaged by SKEENA. Damage to convoy as reported in EGRET's 2201/26, 2328/26 and 1118/27. (LOWESTOFT, 1500/27).

Air attack on convoy HX.65 off Kinnaird Head N.O.I.C. Aberdeen reports that survivors state S.S. RUMUERA was torpedoed from a seaplane at 2140/26/8, following bombing attack about 2130 in which Ship was not hit. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1643/27).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

26.8.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity (Contd.)

CAPE YORK & REMUERA (Contd.)	Survivors stories. REMUERA Chief Officer reports vessel sunk by ariel torpedo from Seaplane. Track of torpedo was seen by him and gunner and look-out. Torpedo struck vessel under water port side at No.5 hold at 2140. Ship sank 2230. 40 survivors landed Peterhead include Naval Gunner rating others rescued by S.S. LODESTONE now at Methil. CAPE YORK 2140 attacked by dive bomber. Bomb burst on rails starboard side of No. 2 hold and split plates and deck in vicinity setting lumber cargo on fire. Lumber cargo kept her afloat until 1115 27/8 when heeled over and sank. 31 survivors landed Peterhead including naval gunner rating others thought to be in LODESTONE. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1649/27).

Mining

	Appears strong probability of minelaying from Kinnaird Head to Tyne (C. in C., Rosyth to C. in C., H.F.).
Scapa	Between 0024 and 0355 enemy aircraft approached Flow singly from S.W. Parachute mines seen to drop in water and one on Burray damaging a house. (A.C.O.S. 0710/26 to Adty.) Area between A1 and A3 berths swept with LL sweep. 2 red mines exploded 249° 11 cables and 274° 4 cables from Calf of Flotta Flashing Red Buoy. Area re-opened to traffic. (A.C.O.S. 1815/26 to Adty.)
BS.35	Intend TEVIOT BANK, escorted by EXPRESS, ICARUS, ESK, to leave Humber 1900/26, lay at 0030/27, and return same route. Request air escort and fighter protection. (Capt. D.20 1029/26 to C. in C., Nore). Sailed Humber 1900/26 (F.O. Humber 1912/26 to Adty.)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

26.8.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining (Contd.)

Portland — At 0631/26 one magnetic mine detonated at 075° 14 cables from Breakwater Fort, and one other mine at 0919/26 at 060° 6 cables from Breakwater Fort. Inner Harbour swept with no result. (F.O.I.C. Portland 17 38/26 to Adty.)

Tay — At 1830/26 an unexplained explosion in river Tay about 2 miles 235° from Buddon High Light on edge of Abertay Sands. (N.O.I.C. Dundee 1900/26 to Adty.)

Enemy Intelligence

Brest — 3 escort vessels still in Ause du Fret. (PRU St. Eval 1618/26).

Enemy Hospital Ship — At 2000/26 at 50.5 N. 1.28 W. one Hospital ship like that sighted on 25th. steering south at 15 knots. (Chatham, A.C.H.Q. 2140/26).

Shipping

Convoys

HG.41 — 9 ships, escort ARSENAL, arrived off Milford. (N.C.S.O. Milford H. 0456/26).

HG.41 A — Passing Kinnaird Head 0030 (CAMELLIA, 0030/26).

HXA.65 — Passes Cape Wrath, expected arrive R.V. Pentland Firth during daylight 26/8 (SKEENA 0412/26). LONDONDERRY and STORK to escort (A.C.O.S., 1155/26).

OB.202 — ULLSWATER and MAN-O-WAR escorting (WINCHELSEA 0534/26). (C. in C., W.A., 1728/26).

OA.204 — JAVELIN and JAGUAR to join as additionnal escort, with GLEANER and CLEMATIS. (F.O.C. (D), H.F., 1125/26).

WN.10 — LOWESTOFT and EGRET to escort. (A.C.O.S., 1155/26).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

26.8.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping (Contd.)

Convoys (Contd.)

SL.45	Sailing telegram (N.C.S.O., Freetown, 1957/26).
Groups	7 M.Vs and 3 M/S trawlers, escorted by SALADIN, SARDONYX and M.A.S.B's 45 and 50 from Needles to Dartmouth (C. in C., Portsmouth 1303/26, 1603/26).
Chitty Jumbo	Fighters have left for convoys Chitty and Jumbo. (Scapa W/T, 1514/26).
SL.43 B.	HARVESTER to join. (C. in C., W.A., 2003/26).
OB.204 MS.	Convoy M.S. and PRESIDENT HONDUCE sailed with OB.204. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 2030/26).
HG.42	ULLSWATER and MAN-O-WAR to meet in 52.30 N., 17° W. (date). (C. in C., W.A. 1728/26).
SC.2	Sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B. 2131/25).
OB.206	Route. (C. in C., W.A., 1449/26).
SL.44	Escort from OB.206 to meet. (C. in C., W.A., 1449/26).
HX.70	Route (N.O.I.C. Halifax, 0932/26).
SC.3	Route. (D.T.D., 1634/26).
SC.1	List and destinations. (C. in C., W.A., 1134/26).
LOCHNAGAR	JAVELIN and JAGUAR to escort after leaving OA.204. (Cdr. (D) H.F., 2235/26).
GOTEBORG	My 1856/25 request reply. GOTEBORG should be routed to Akureyri and not repeat not Reykjavik. Could you give expected date of her arrival in Iceland? My 1358/24. Presume you have made arrangements for personnel ex HUNTER to sail in GOTEBORG. (Head of M. 2042/26 to N.A. Stockholm).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

26.8.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping (Contd.)

U/B attacks on convoys. Policy

Enemy has changed his tactics and is now concentrating on U/boat attack on convoys assisted by air reconnaissance. Object of W.A. command remains the safe passage of shipping and the ultimate method of achieving this object is the destruction of the U-boat. This can be achieved with the greatest economy of force, in the vicinity of the U/boat's objective, which is now the convoy. Therefore my intention to do away with striking forces as such and employ all available forces as convoy escorts, until such time as sufficient forces are available for every convoy to have enough escorts to ensure the destruction and detection of any U/boat attacking it. Once this condition is satisfied surplus forces will be employed as striking forces. Until more escorts available, not possible to maintain a large escort on convoys throughout their cycle. In waters where ~~att~~ attack is unlikely, escort will be reduced to a minimum, but will include a ship whose C.O. will carry out administration duties of S.O. of the escort. In submarine danger zone, maximum escort possible will be put on the convoy: this zone is considered to be to the westward of Scapa and the North Channel. In the event of an attack on the convoy all escorts are to take part in the initial search. The convoy is not to be left entirely unescorted for more than two hours by which time the minimum escort is to rejoin in accordance with W.A.C.I.S. Remainder are to continue hunt under orders of the Senior Officer until either the U-Boat is destroyed, or there is no longer any chance of the forces concerned compelling her to remain submerged. Close co-operation required between ships of various classes and the air, proposed this training should be carried out by Captain S.F. for the escorts that are based on the North Channel area. (C. in C., W.A., to Adty., 1336/26).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

26.8.40.
Monday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

KIRKWOOD — Is clear of Harbour with KROOMAN and tug YARMOUTH HAVEN in attendance. To be at position Z at 0400/27. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1837/26 to Adty.)

RINOVIA, CONCERTATOR, LOCH BUIE — My 1303/26. 3 M/S trawlers grounded on shingle bank when leaving. Reported in no danger and hope float about 2345. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 2357/26).

ARENA, MORDING — My 0948/25. Both ships arrived Capetown. (S.O.I., Capetown, 1508/26 to Adty.).

TIRRANNA, TALLEYRAND, CITY OF BAGDAD, KEMBENDINE — Overdue on E.I. station, presumed lost. (C. in C., E.I., 1056Z/26).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

26.8.40.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace"

Transport — Sailing orders to masters of CASAMANCE, FORT LAMY, NEVADA and ANADYR withdrawn. Masters to receive all instructions by SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA or PRESIDENT HOUDUCE. (D.O.D.(H) 1120/26 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).

North Atlantic

A/S Force, Gibraltar. — Present position regarding anti-submarine forces at Gibraltar unsatisfactory. When Force H is operating. Strait patrol wholly inadequate and on occasion reduced to one anti-submarine trawler and armed boarding vessel. Italian U-boats are now operating in the Atlantic and this may be the result of frequent reduction of Straits Patrol. Ocean escorts of H.G. and O.G. convoys too weak. Raiders are operating and enemy possess Biscay Ports. A new commitment is about to arise when ore ships have to be convoyed to and from Melilla and South Spanish ports. With present forces available opportunities of offensive action against U-boats endeavouring to pass Straits of Gibraltar are being missed. Strongly urged send more A/S trawlers or possibly motor A/S boats to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 1136/26).

Spanish Ship — After investigating CAMPOAMOR (Spanish), in position 337°, 31° N., 22° W., 29, and 1300 zone + 1 have jammed her signals in case she reported convoy. (CANTON 1309/26)

South Atlantic

ENTERPRISE — Request to sail her soon as possible for Freetown or as ordered by C. in C., S.A., Assumed that since Hurry 2 was cancelled you have not intended to include ENTERPRISE in "Hats". (D.O.D.(F) to F.O. Force H., 1826/26).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

26.8.40.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

MORETON BAY — My 1215/25. Seven days required at Capetown. Details of defects. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1045/26). Complete all items, delay accepted. (C. in C., S.A., 1800/26 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

TERSBANK — Request Master be questioned about courses and speeds between 1700 and 1745/12 when ST. AGNES made raider report. (S.O.I., Freetown, 1249/26 to S.O.I., Colombo).

ARENA — Norwegian, arrived Capetown (S.O.I., Capetown, 1508/26).

MORNING — ex ANGLO-MAERSK arrived Capetown (S.O.I., Capetown, 1508/26).

LURIGETHAN — Due Freetown 18/8 from Milford Haven, not arrived. Request if proceeding direct to Cape. (S.O.I., Freetown, 1832/26).

A.P.I. — Rely on you to get A.P.I. to destination with utmost rapidity. (1st S.L. to YORK, 1511/26).

Duala — W.O. to G.O.C., West Africa, re French territory. (see Operations Volume).

GLENORCHY — Due St. Vincent 23/8 from Southend. Asking for any information (S.O.I., Freetown to N.C.S.O. St. Vincent 1833/26).

STRATHAIRD — Your 0040/24 High Commissioner has represent to me that supplies in STRATHAIRD after transfer will arrive unsuitable for the children ex. BATORY. At his request have held up further transfer which is now partly completed, pending decision on his urgent message to Dominions Office. Can suggest no reasonable alternative and must stress that any change will delay convoy sailing. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 2150/26 to Adty.)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

26.8.40.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Italian Casualties	Inquiring from International Red Cross, Geneva, asking for names of survivors from Italian submarines PROVANA, ARGONAUTE and destroyers NEMBO, EURO and OSTRO. Nothing known in Adty. of these vessels having been sunk or damaged. Grateful for information. (D.N.I. to C. in C., Med., 1708/26/8).
OSWALD	S/m (sunk 1/8). Rome broadcast with survivors speaking stated only 3 of crew missing (names). Crew interned in Venice. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1000/26).
Greece	Value of support of our sea power. (C. in C. Med., 1129/26)(See Mediterranean Volume).
Operation "Bonnet"	Adty. 1043/15. Operation"Bonnet"is cancelled. (1st. S.L., 1424/26).
VALIANT ILLUSTRIOUS Operation "Hats"	Importance of destroyer screen through the narrows, subject to adequate screen being retained for RENOWN and ARK ROYAL. Assumed you are leaving RESOLUTION at Gibraltar to reduce numbers of destroyers required for screening Force H. (1st S.L. to V.A. "H" 1512/26).
Enemy Intelligence	Your 1845/25. Disposition of Italian naval force substantially unchanged since my A.D.L. No.2 Aug. 1940 and my D.I.F. 6 of Aug. 2. Following main alterations (Capt. O.S., Alexandria, 1804/26 to S.O. Force H).

Air.

Alexandria Raids	Between 0415 and 0615. About 18 bombs, negligible damage. Casualties 2 British soldiers killed 1 wounded, 3 Egyptian civilians injured. (N.O.I.C., Alexandria, 0927/26).

MOST SECRET

26.8.40.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Air (Contd.)

R.A.F., M.E. Operational Summary 78. One Sunderland r.c. Kithera on return Malta to Alexandria. Aircraft forced landed Kithera and being detained by Greeks. Crew likely to be interned 0415/26 to 0615/26. Alexandria attacked by unidentified enemy aircraft. 18 bombs negligible damage and few casualties. (.H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1009/27).

Mediterranean - Mining

Greek mines — According to press messages the Greek Govt. has announced the mining of the Gulf of Arta. (D.S. 356).

East Indies

Troop Convoys — Your 1218/23 and my 2118/24. Is passage of convoys West of Socotra unacceptable for reasons of security? (D.O.D.(F) to C. in C., 1523/26).

S.B.N.O. Suez Canal to sail B.S.3½, in time to R.V. with R.S.5 as arranged by S.N.O. Red Sea in his 0752/23. S.N.O. Red Sea to sail ETHIOPIA from Port Sudan to join B.S. 3½. (C. in C., E.I., 1150/26).

Overdue Ships — There are now 4 ships overdue on East Indies Station and presumed lost viz: Norwegian TIRRANNA, TAILLEYRAND British CITY OF BAGHDAD, KEMMENDINE. Of these only CITY OF BAGHDAD is known to have attempted to signal distress messages. Possible explanation appears to be that raider used white ensign and boarding parties in British uniform. Although this is purely surmise it is considered that a G.B.M.S. message warning merchant ships accordingly emphasising procedure laid down in Adty. 1330/21/7. (C. in C., E.I., 10562/26).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

26.8.40.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

China.

Far East Situation	Telegram from Chiefs of Staff to C. in C., China, G.O. C. in C., Malaya, and A.O. C. in C., Far East, on appreciation of situation in Far East (1st S.L. 1415/26). (See Operations Volume).
Transports	Your 0047/24. Details of ships available, and others which can arrive Singapore by 3/9 or 4/9. (N.O.I.C. Hong Kong to D. of S.T., 0711/26).

America & West Indies

Cruiser Visit	Proposing a cruiser to visit Colon, Cartagena, and La Guaira early September. (C. in C., A.W.I. to Ministers, Panama, Bogota, Caracas 1301/26).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

26.8.40.
Monday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

ARKADIA	Due Istanbul 27/8. (Macrae, Galatz, 1047/26).
LUVSEE	Split report a ship, probably LUVSEE, at Zelenika, Yugoslavia, loading about 3000 tons bauxite for Trieste. Expected to sail 26/8. (D.S. 357).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

LEOPARDI 3298 G.T.	Torpedoed and sunk in Mediterranean by submarine 13/8. Also struck by bomb from an aeroplane. (S.O.I. Alexandria, 1107/26, see Supplementary Diary 13/8). A 3000 tons ship was sunk by OSIRIS 15/8 in Adriatic (D.S. 357).
FILIPPO GRIMANI	Made S.O.S. having been attacked by submarine in position 41.13 N., 18.55 E. (V.A., Malta, 1507/26).
CELENO	Due at Batoum 27/8. (V.C., Varna, 1015/26).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

Convoy Attacks	My 1341/10. Possible browning attacks may be carried out from even greater distances. Extensive search to be carried out after each night attack. (A.C.W.A., 1334/26).

Submarines Reported

2220/25	Your 2220/25 (no trace). This is wreck of CUMBERLAND, sunk 24/8 (? 23/8). Proceed 56.22 N., 07.55 W. and search for U-boat. Return to Coleraine if weather unsuitable. (Capt., S.F., to M.L., 109, 0032/26).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

26.8.40.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported (Contd.)

1803	By aircraft 56.32 N., 8.33 W. (Aircraft 48 Sqdn., 1815/26)(A.C.W.A., 1853/26). ANTHONY proceeding, GERANIUM to follow. ANTHONY 1851/16). WANDERER to attack (Capt. S.F., Belfast, 1905/26, 1926/26, 2345/26). Will be in position 56.30 N., 9.00 W. at 2010 reducing to 16 knots to search. (ANTHONY, 1946/26). ANTHONY not to leave hunt unless ordered. Return to 57° N. and 11° W. and continue patrol in vicinity. (S.O. A/S, S.F., Belfast, 2108/16, 0014/27). Your 2108. My position course and speed 56.55 N. 9.00 W., 270° 15 knots. GERANIUM to R.V. 57° N., 11° W., at 0800. Was unaware of any other Striking Force in 12th D.F. Area and acting interception of aircraft report. Have searched farthest on position from westward to northwards from last aircraft report of 56° 34' N., 8°42' W, (ANTHONY, 2258/26).
2225	D.F. unknown enemy unit, probable U-boat, 50.50 N., 12.20 W. (D.D.I.C. 2300/26).
0027	57° N., 19° W., 287° Bloody Foreland 382'. (D.S. 356).
Hunts	Your 1131, re TITANIA and FORTH and U-boat hunting. No objection. (C. in C., H.F. to Adty. 1551/26).
1108	58° to 59° N., 14° to 16° W., position indefinite. (D.S. 357).
1250	53° N., 23° W., position indefinite. (D.S. 327).
2138 - 2214	50°50' N., 12°20' W., position reliable. (D.S. 357)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

26.8.40.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported (Contd.)

Estimated Dispositions	Italian - 2 or possibly 3 in Azores, Canaries Area. German - 1 possibly bound for Halifax, but this U/boat may be the one that sank the YEWCREST in 55° 10' N. 25° W. at 2130/25. 1 in about 57° N. 19° W. at 0027/26. 4 others in N.W. Approaches. Also 1 in 58°30' N. 10° 15' W. at 0745/25 homeward bound. 1 in 58°52' N. 6°34' W. at 2254/25. probably outward bound. 1 between 58° and 59° N. 14° and 16° W. homeward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1257/26).

Submarines Attacked

Policy	Re U/b attacks on convoys in W.A. (C. in C., W.A., 1336/26). (see Shipping).
1803	At 1803 aircraft sighted U.B. on surface apparently stationary in position heading 090 about 4 miles distant from aircraft dead ahead. Aircraft approached at full speed and dropped 1 100 A.S. bomb 5 yds. astern of diving U-boat which was still visible 2 secs. before bomb dropped. Aircraft circled and dropped second bomb about 15 yards ahead of first bomb, this also failed to explode. Aircraft dropped smoke floats and remained in area for 1/4 hours. When a landfall was made corrected position was sent - 56.34 N., 8.41 W. (Donibristle, 2030/26).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

26.8.40.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported (Contd.)

Estimated Dispositions

Italian - 2 or possibly 3 in Azores, Canaries Area.
German - 1 possibly bound for Halifax, but this U/boat may be the one that sank the YEWCREST in 55° 10' N. 25° W. at 2130/25.

1 in about 57° N. 19° W. at 0027/26.
4 others in N.W. Approaches.
Also 1 in 58°30' N. 10° 15' W. at 0745/25 homeward bound.
1 in 58°52' N. 6°34' W. at 2254/25. probably outward bound.
1 between 58° and 59° N. 14° and 16° W. homeward bound.
(D.D.I.C. 1257/26).

Submarines Attacked

Policy

Re U/b attacks on convoys in W.A. (C. in C., W.A., 1336/26). (see Shipping).

1803

At 1803 aircraft sighted U.B. on surface apparently stationary in position heading 090 about 4 miles distant from aircraft dead ahead. Aircraft approached at full speed and dropped 1 100 A.S. bomb 5 yds. astern of diving U-boat which was still visible 2 secs. before bomb dropped. Aircraft circled and dropped second bomb about 15 yards ahead of first bomb, this also failed to explode. Aircraft dropped smoke floats and remained in area for 1/4 hours. When a landfall was made corrected position was sent - 56.34 N., 8.41 W. (Donibristle, 2030/26).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

27.8.40.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Sweep off Dutch Coast

3 M.T.Bs last night carried out a sweep off the Dutch coast between the mouth of the Maas and Scheveningen. No enemy vessels were sighted.

Force M.

BARHAM and 3 destroyers left Scapa this evening. One destroyer follows with despatches.

S.S. GOTEBORG

Left Petsamo this afternoon with German safe conduct, for Akureyri, repatriating British military personnel from Sweden.

British Air Activity

9 out of 11 Whitleys last night attacked targets at Turin and Gesto San Giovanni.

Enemy Air Activity

Enemy activity was on exceptionally heavy and continuous scale last night.

Raids were carried out on Plymouth last night at frequent intervals for a period of 6½ hours. There was no damage to naval property.

Mining.

BS.35

D.20 in EXPRESS with ESK, ICARUS and TEVIOT BANK laid mines last night in the East Coast Mine Barrier.

A few enemy aircraft working singly or in pairs last night carried out minelaying raids over Scapa Flow and entrances; one mine was exploded this morning; more LL sweepers are urgently required at Scapa. Minelaying is also suspected off the East Anglian Coast, Plymouth, Whitby and Tyne and off Kinnairds Head. A magnetic mine was detonated off Cromer and a moored mine, believed laid some time ago, was found and sunk off Long Sand.

War Diary

MOST SECRET

27.8.40.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Operation "HATS" — MOHAWK, HERO, NUBIAN, and JANUS left Malta this evening to meet Force H.

RORQUAL — Reports that on 21/8 she attacked 2 enemy merchant vessels and one escorting destroyer 10 miles north of Ras el Hilal, and considers he sank both merchant vessels with 2 torpedoes each. The destroyer was missed.

Fleet Sweepers — C. in C., Med. has asked for up to 4 fast Fleet minesweepers. The Italians rely greatly on defensive minelaying, a factor which must be allowed for in operations.

Tripoli — A photographic reconnaissance made of Tripoli today showed one cruiser, 4 or 5 destroyers, 6 M.Vs of 8000 tons and 6 or 8 smaller vessels or auxiliaries.

Enemy aircraft — KENT, GLOUCESTER and HEREWARD (see 24/8). were attacked this morning about 100 miles N.E. of Sollum by an aircraft which dropped one or possibly two torpedoes.

Derma bombed — Shipping in the harbour of Derma was bombed by 17 Blenheims, hits being made on the jetty and fires started in 2 ships. All our aircraft returned safely.

Haifa Raid — Ten enemy aircraft bombed Haifa oil refineries and railway yards. 1 oil tank was holed but not fired.

Foreign Stations

Raider — Walvis Bay Radio early this morning broadcast reports from S.S. BRITISH COMMANDER that she had been stopped and was being shelled by a raider in the southern Indian Ocean, 250 miles south of Madagascar. COLOMBO has been ordered to Mauritius from Mombasa, and NEPTUNE through the Mozambique Channel. NEPTUNE, which is being replaced in the Mediterranean Fleet by AJAX, is being retained by C. in C., East Indies for the present.

1

War Diary

MOST SECRET

27.8.40.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Foreign Stations (Contd.)

U.S.A. — Arrangements for the exchange of technical information with the U.S. Navy are proceeding.

ROROUAL sinks 2 M.Vs — S/m RORQUAL reports on Wednesday 21/8 when in approx. position 000° Ras El Hilal 10 miles she attacked 2 enemy merchant vessels and 1 escorting destroyer. C.O. considers he hit and sank both merchant vessels with 2 torpedoes each.

War Diary

MOST SECRET

27.8.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

No. 20 Group A/S trawlers — Propose to employ with Belfast Trawler Force. (C. in C., W.A., 0651/27, 1236/27).

Defence of U.K.

Iceland Coast Batteries — 0158/493 27/8/40. Re. manning five batteries of four inch guns recently approved for Iceland. Owing to lack of personnel following are alternatives (A) to remove personnel of five complete batteries now manning guns in U.K. (B) To delay relief of naval personnel now manning coast defence batteries in U.K. (C) To defer manning Iceland batteries till October. Please say which alternative. (W.O. 2152/27 to Adty.)

Movements

ELLESMERE ARCTIC EXPLORER — Join SL.43. Position 52.50 N. 18.46 W. at 2030/26. Route. (C. in C., W.A. 0119/27).

Nore — Night dispositions 27/28 Aug. (C. in C., Nore, 0800/25) (?/27). Day patrols and movements to 1200/28, including convoys (C. in C., Nore, 1200/27).

BLACK SWAN — Expect to arrive 20 C buoy at 1915 (BLACK SWAN 0815/27).

Scapa — Movements night 27/28 (A.C.O.S. 1522/27).

Harwich — Night dispositions and movements to 1200/28 (N.O.I.C. Harwich, 1626/27).

WOLVERINE } VOLUNTEER } — My 1220/27. Orders to meet SL.43 A, carrying out A/S sweep on way. To leave convoy to arrive Scapa 2000/30 (R.A.(D) H.F., 1421/27).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

27.8.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Convoy MP — Adty. 2329/23. FIJI, DEVONSHIRE and transports of convoy MP are to complete to maximum stowage of drinking water before sailing (D.O.D.(H) 1255/27).

Patrol off Dutch Coast — Last night by M.T.Bs, no enemy vessel sighted between mouth of Maas and Scheveningen (C. in C., Nore 1647/27).

Convoy MP. — Adty. 2329/23. Detail WOLVERINE, VOLUNTEER for Scapa portions, HAVELOCK, HURRICANE, HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER for Liverpool portions. (C. in C., W.A., 1723/27).

E-boats

4 small surface craft possibly E-boats observed by aircraft 1204, 2 proceeding N.W. from Cape Gris Nez and 2 N.W. from Sangatte. (Chatham, 1410/27).

Lorient — There are 3, possibly 6, E-boats at Keroman on 27/8. (V.A.S. 1607/28 to CACHALOT)

Submarines

My 1716/22. TRIAD and TRUANT will leave Rosyth pm/29. TETRARCH and TRITON am/1/9 (V.A.S. 1126/27).

H.64 — Patrol will not take place tonight. (F.O. Submarines 1128/27 to H.64).

Positions — and movements for following 24 hours at 0600/28, Area A (V.A.S. 1658/27, 1809/27). Area B. (V.A.S. 1659/27).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

27.8.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

R.C. of Kristiansand South and Arundel — Donibristle, 0140/27.

Attack on Schellingwoude Seaplane Base — Instructions for attack night 27/28 Aug. (H.Q.C.C. 1435/27).

Walrus Sqdn. — To be established at Stornoway, to be operated by A.C.C.S. in conjunction with surface A/S craft to hunt U-boats in Cape Wrath - Butt of Lewis area. (A.C.C.S. 1629/27).

Attack on Shipping in Bogne and Kors Fiords — My 1215/26. In view of favourable weather conditions propose carrying out these operations with 9 Skuas leaving at 1030/28. (Hatston 1827/27). Approved provided weather conditions remain suitable (A.C.C.S. 1949/27).

French Ports — R.C. of Breton ports, including Lorient. (PRU. 0715/27).

Cherbourg — Details of oil fuel installations to be attacked tonight (H.Q.C.C. 1435/27).

"SOLLO" — Asking for fighter protection for 5 fast mine sweepers 0730/28 to 1900/28 in 52° N. 1°44' E. Code word "SOLLO". (C. in C., Nore 1511/27 to A.C.C. in C., F.C.).
Same for 29/8. Position 51°45' N., 1°47'E. (C. in C., Nore, 1513/27).

Enemy Air Activity

Plymouth — Air raids at frequent intervals from 2130 to 0400/27. Incendiary bombs. No naval damage (C. in C., W.A., 0846/27).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

27.8.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Scapa — Between 2342/26 and 0225/27 enemy aircraft working singly or in pairs and approaching from the direction of Kinnaird Head carried out minelaying raids over Scapa Flow and entrances enemy were engaged by gunfire on three occasions. The fleet channel is being swept with double L sweep and one red mine has been exploded. Probably less than 10 enemy aircraft employed. (A.C.O.S. 0830/27).

B.S. Operation — You will be required for a B.S. operation pm/28. (Capt. (D) 20 1247/27 to IVANHOE).

ED.25 — (Minelaying by PORPOISE) is cancelled. Ref. V.A.S. 1718/22, 1406/25. (V.A.S. 1556/27).

LL Sweepers Scapa — Further LL sweepers are very urgent requirement at Scapa. When will BOUVET 1, 2, 3 and POLAR 5 and 6 sail (ALOS 1644/27 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).

Mine off Cromer — HARRIER detonated magnetic mine in 52.57 N., 1.33 E. (C. in C., Nore, 1741/27).

Mine off Long Sand — One German W type mine jammed in otter in 51°52' N. 1°43.5' E. mine sunk, sinker salved and brought into harbour this is presumed to be SUTTON's mine last reported in this position. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1802/27

Enemy Intelligence

French ports — PRU SORTIE 1800/26 shows no shipping no E-boats Calais. 1 T/B 7 E-boats 7 seaplanes Boulogne. No activity Treport Dieppe Fecamp. No shipping of importance or seaplane Havre. Guns clearly visible in all reported positions Gris Nez area. (PIU, 0755/27).

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence (Contd.)

Bomber Command Summary 1640/27 8/11 ships seen 52°50' N. 4°40' E. steaming slowly north, thought to be small cargo vessels painted grey. (H.Q.B.C. 0125/28, F.O.S/ms 1859/27 to H.44).

30 Danish fishing smacks 55°50' N., 5°50' E. course 280, speed 5 knots. No sign of troops on board. (A/c 1755/27, 1850/27).

Helder At 1620/27 alongside Jetty at S. side of Zuider Zee Dam a M/V 3000 to 5000 tons loading from barges. A/c report. (H.Q.B.C. 1905/28).

Shipping

Convoys:

SC.2 Sailing telegram as amended by Adty. (D.T.D., 1145/27).

SL.43 Route and escort. (C. in C., W.A., 0119/27).

SL.43B HARVESTER to join. Route. (C. in C., W.A., 0837/27).

FS. & FN. Amending his 1658/23 and 1552/25 re escorts. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1120/27).

WN.10 Expect arrive 0700/27 (LONDON DERRY, 0230/27).

SL.44 Escorted by CANTON, position (F.O.C.N.A., 1250/27).

MS. DEPTFORD reports 1107/27 PRESIDENT HONDUCE not been sighted. FORT LARMY has joined. British ships BRITISH ENERGY and CASAMANCE were in collision last night. Have not returned Liverpool. A/S patrol ordered to make contact. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1258/27). DEPTFORD reports PRESIDENT HONDUCE now in sight, 1445/27. BRITISH ENERGY arrived Liverpool for repairs. (F.O.I.C., Liverpool, 2200/27).

OB.203
OA.204
HG.42 SOL ANGLE to shadow and escort (C. in C., W.A., 1533/27).

OB.204 French sloop SAVORNAN DE BRAZZA to join. (N.O.I.C., Greenock, 182 6/27).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

27.8.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping (Contd.)

Convoys: (Contd.)

SC.1	SABRE and SCIMITAR to join. (Capt. S.F., 2005/27).
OA.205	List (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0715, 0716/27). Escort ANTELOPE, AMBUSCADE, ROCHESTER, BLUEBELL, estimated passing Rattray Head 2100/27. (C. in C., Rosyth, 2014/27).
OA.Convoys	To proceed through Minches rather than outside Hebrides. (C. in C., W.A., 2104/27).
Aberdeen - Lerwick	My 1157/22. LADY OF MANN and BEN-MY-CHREE will each embark approx. 800 personnel (date). LOCHNAGAR will approx. 300 leave personnel will not be ready to sail until 5 days later. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1232/27).
CLERMISTON	Military transport, sails London 27/8 with cargo cement for Iceland. (D. of S.T., 0427/27).
ROYAL ULSTERMAN	Expects to sail unescorted for Akureyri at 2000/27 with 250 troops. After disembarking, to proceed via E. coast to Clyde unescorted with R.M.F.U. on board (N.O.I.C. Iceland, 0943/27).
GOTEBORG	Adty. 2042/26. GOTEBORG left Petsamo 1345/27, proceeding through positions indicated in my 1117/24 to Akureyri, due 3/9. Regret no arrangements could be made for return of HUNTER personnel. Matter explained by Brit. Min. in his 982, 26/8, to Royal Commission. (N.A., Stockholm, 1532/27). On arrival Iceland to be met and "led through minefield" to Reykjavik. (D.O.D.(H) to F.O.I.C. Iceland, 1839/27). No objection to GOTEBORG being sailed for Akureyri. Ministry of Shipping accept terms in Military Attache's 2150/24 concernin extension of voyage. (Hd. of M., 1915/27 to N.A., Stockholm).
LOCHNAGAR	Escorted by JAVELIN and JAGUAR, estimated off Wick 0400/28 southwards. (C. in C., Rosyth, 2014/27).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

27.8.40.
Tuesday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

BRITISH ENERGY — Damaged in collision with CASAMANCE (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1258/27, D.O.D.(F) 1957/27). See Operation "Menace".

RADAMES — Reported overdue 20/8. Arrived Capetown. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1638/27).

LEONIDAS M. VALMAS — Lloyds agent at Burton Port reports derelict LEONIDAS M. VALMAS loaded with timber drifting south in approx. 054°59' N. 008° 35' W. off Arran Island. Numerous local boats taking off cargo. (N.O.I.C., Belfast, 1820/27).

WESTBURY — British, 4172 tons. From Durban, overdue at Aden since 22/8. (C. in C., East Indies 0604/27 to Adty.)

BRITISH RELIANCE — British tanker, 7000 tons. From Capetown, overdue at Abadan since 22/8. (C. in C., E.I. 0604/27 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

27.8.1940.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation Menace

Route — My 1907/24 and your 1117/27. Add position B. 2. 56° N., 15° (C. in C., W.A. 1356/27)

Water — Admty. 2329/23. Addressees requested to ensure that FIJI, DEVONSHIRE and transports of Convoy H.F. are completed to maximum storage of drinking water before sailing. (D.O.D. (H) 1265/27 to C. in C., H.F., A.C. Orkneys, C. in C., Rosyth and F.O.I.C's Liverpool and Glasgow)

BARHAM — Screened by D.3. in INGLEFIELD, ESCAPADE, ECHO, ECLIPSE, to sail for Gibraltar 2000/27 routed as in C. in C., W.A's 1907/24 amended 1356/27. C. in C., W.A. requested to provide air escort (C. in C., H.F., 1355/27, F.O.C.O.S., 1552/27, D.O.D. (H) 1540/27)

Convoy H.F. — Re PRESIDENT HOUDOUN and FORT LAMY etc., (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1258/27, see Shipping) Admty. 1805/25. Cancel para 4. BRITISH ENERGY damaged in collision (D.O.D. (F) to C. in C., S.A., 1957/27)

FIJI — On completion of embarkation of aircraft, to sail as necessary to comply with Admty. 2329/23 (D.D.O.D. (H) 1610/27)

Force H. — Admty. 1654°23, para 5. Request you inform F.O. Force H. in due course of movement and route of ships from Gibraltar. (D.O.D. (F) to F.O.C.H.A., 1952/27)

Aircraft — Requesting report to F.O. Force H., on return to Gibraltar after operation Hato of number and type of aircraft remaining in ARK ROYAL. (D.O.S. (F) to F.O. Force H., 1948/27)

Convoy H.F. — Admty. 1341/24. Sail BELGRAVIAN from Cardiff and RO SEMANY from Milford Haven to an arranged rendesvous, proceeding thence to R.V. in position 270 Chickens Rock 8 miles at 1600/31 with convoy H.F. from Liverpool. S.O. of escort HAVELOCK, ROSEMANY proceed thence to Rothesay. (C. in C., W.A. 1519/27, to F.O.I.C's Cardiff and Milford Haven.)

MOST SECRET

27.8.1940.
Tuesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Operation "Hats"

Convoy S.L. 44 escorted by CANTON estimated position course and speed at 1200/27 034° 30' N., 030° 30' W., 013° 8½ knots. CIRCASSIA is patrolling in Area 030° N., 036° N., 015° W., Convoy A P One escorted by TONK estimated position course and speed at 1200/27 030° 15' N., 020° 00' W., 180° 18 knots. Convoy A.P. Two escorted by AJAX estimated position course and speed at 1200/27 037° 30' N., 030° 00' W., 180° 16 knots. (F.O.C.N.A., 1250/27)

Aircraft

My 1246/31 three Skuas from ARK ROYAL flown off a.m. 26/8 and now temporarily based on emergency landing ground for training purposes. (F.O.C.N.A. 1730/27)

South Atlantic

RAPANUI

(Overdue, my 1100/20) Arrived Capetown from Gibraltar (S.O.I., Capetown 1630/27)

Flying Boat Service

F./.O. CLYDE left Bathurst 1600 G.M.T. for Lisbon. Comdr. Rushbrooke and other passengers. (O.A.G. Gambia to F.O. 1940/27)

Troop Convoys
WS 2 A
WS 2 B

EMPRESS OF BRITAIN to be sailed from Cape in WS 2 A. Concur in consideration being given to formation of fast group comprising EMPRESS OF BRITAIN, EMPRESS OF CANADA and ANDES for passage onward from Aden. Confirmed that personnel for Egypt at present in STRATHAIRD should be transferred to BATORY at Capetown and BATORY sailed in WS 2 A. Passengers and troops now in BATORY for passage to India and beyond to be transferred to STRATHAIRD STRATHAIRD to sail in WS 2 B.
(D.O.D. (F) 0242/27 to C. in C., E.I., N.O.I.C. Simonstown)

C. in C., E.I. 0720/24. If practicable N.O.I.C. Simonstown to put into effect proposal of C. in C., E.I. regarding CARNARVON (D.O.D. (F) 0244/27)

/Redistribution.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

27.3.1940.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.
Redistribution of military personnel so that STRATHAIRD and BATORY may proceed to Egypt in WS 2 A and ORMONDE to India in WS 2 B. N.O.I.C Simonstown. 1022/27 (D.O.D. (F) 1311/27 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown)

Your 1022/27 and my 1311/27. Redistribution left to your discretion. Sailing of WS 2 A (D.O.D. (F) 2011/27)

ENTERPRISE

Admty. 1526/26. Request you sail ENTERPRISE for Freetown (C. in C., S.A., to S.O., Force H., 1035/27)

Mediterranean

Operation "Hats"

Your 1512/26. Intend sending 2 more destroyers with Force F, leaving 6 to screen Force B for return to Gibraltar. RESOLUTION remains Gibraltar. (S.O. Force H to Admty. 0200/27)

French Forces

Your 1545/25. Disposition of French naval and air forces (D.N.I. to S.O. Force H., 1752/27)

Destroyers

Left 27/3. NUBIAN, MOHAWK, MENO, JANUS (for Gibraltar) (N.O.I.C., Malta 1919/27)

Troop Convoys

No arrival programme for BN 4, WS 2, BN 5, US 5, US 4 and BN 6. (W.O. to C. in C., M.E. no T.O.O.)

Admty. 1934/21. No naval requirement for these vessels at present but it seems desirable they should be brought down out of the ocean escort ORBIT (C. in C., Med. to Admty., 1003/27)

Minesweepers

Need for fleet minesweepers for offensive minesweeping. (C. in C., Med., 1509/27) (See Mediterranean Volume)

BOREAL

Reports on Wednesday 21/3 when in approx. position 000° Ras El Khilal 10 miles she attacked 2 enemy Merchant Vessels and 1 escorting Destroyer. C.O. considers he hit and sank both Merchant Vessels with 2 torpedoes each. Destroyer missed. Unable to observe result owing to being hunted by Destroyer. (C. in C., Med. 1427/27)

/Following.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

27.8.1940.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Following from Admiral Kelly. I saw General Gundus this morning. General staff consider Italian note to Greece imminent. Turkish Consul General reports further Italian concentrations Gibraltar Ignius. Yugo-slav making small concentrations near Albanian border. Turks think Greeks will fight in which case they consider Bulgarians will profit by occasion to demand outlet to Aegean and if they attack Greece Turks will assist Greeks.

2. Turks have received reports of concentration of transport in Dodecanese and of troops exercising landing and embarking. This might be for unexpected attack east end of Crete in the event of Italian operations againts that Island.

3. Italian commission passed through to Syria without stopping. Turks think they will try and assume control in that country which requires our most urgent attention. Grave fears of venality of Arabs and also of fifth column activities in Egypt. Anticipated objective in Egypt is considered to be railway Cairo to Khartoum. Admirable organisation for watering troops was referred to including portable distillers for South West African water.

4. Turks think Bulgarians have gone completely German to the considerable displeasure of Russia. Turks seem mildly worried by situation. Germans hope French may declare war against us which would enable STRASBURG and other French ships to join Italy against our Mediterranean Fleet.

(N.A. Angora 1522/27)

Air.

Reconnaissance

Malta Air Intelligence report to 1300/27 All times local. 1000 hours Hudson effected successful photographic reconnaissance Tripoli sighted one cruiser 4 or 5 destroyers in harbour. 6 M.V's of 8000 tons and 6 or 8 smaller ones also several auxiliaries. One Sunderland of 230 Squadron L 2159 which left Malta 0300 hours G.M.T. 25/8 to reconnoitre Kithera while returning to Egypt force-landed at Kithera and detained by Greeks. Crew likely to be interned. Enemy activity over Malta nil. (H.Q.Malta, 1630/27)

/3. C.S. ATTACKED..

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

3 C.S. Attacked — V.C.C. 3 C.S. in KENT with GLOUCESTER and HERMIONE attacked at 0300 C in position 033° 00' N., 026° 10' E., by one torpedo aircraft probably an S. 79. Aircraft first seen at 3 miles flying low. She approached to about two thousand yards on beam and dropped one torpedo and possibly two at 200 feet. Torpedoes were not seen. (C. in C., Med. 2031/27)

Depth Charges — Admty. 1815/9. R.A.F. request depth charges for use from Sunderland Aircraft. Request details of any modification required and method of suspension may be signalled. (C. in C., Med. 1931/27)

Derna Bombed — Following 113 Sqdn. reconnaissance 8 Blenheims 55 Sqdn and 9 Blenheims 211 Sqdn. high level attack shipping Derna Harbour. Hits on ships and jetty starting fires on ships. A.A. fire inaccurate 80 Squadron provided patrol to cover withdrawal of bombers all aircraft returned safely. 113 Sqdn. reconnaissance Bardia to Derna. 3 ships 400 feet in harbour 18 bombers on landing ground with M.T. concentration. Bombs 15 flying boats

Palestine 1340 hours, 10 S. 79's high level attack 15000 feet in 2 waves Haifa Oil refineries and railway marshalling yards. 100 50 kilo bombs dropped damage negligibly 1 oil storage tank holed but not fired, 14 civilians slight casualties. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. 1017/38)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

27.8.1940.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Raider

At 0131 G.M.T. Walrus Bay Radio broadcast Q.Q.Q.Q. BRITISH COMMANDER 29.37' S., 45.50' E., stopped by unknown vessel 0125 G.M.T. At 0125 Walrus Bay sent QQQQ. BRITISH COMMANDER, now vessel shelling us 0129. (Lands End Radio, 0148/27) BRITISH COMMANDER (tanker 6901 tons) reports being attacked by raider, position (D.C., 0400/27 to C. in C., S.A. and E.I., A.C.N.B.) Position 240' south of Madagascar. BRITISH COMMANDER had left Table Bay 20/8 in ballast for Abadan (D.S. 357)

Reporting shelling to E. Indies Station. Suspicious vessel sighted 0800Z/23 in 35-21 S., 24-21 E., (description) Resembles German SCHECK. Possible that my 1726/8 (a) refers (C. in C. E.I., 0416Z/27)(1002Z/27) Description of raider (C. in C., E.I., 0414/27)

My 0416/27. Dispositions ordered
(a) KANIMBLA in about 480 miles west true from BRITISH COMMANDER's position to steer to south eastward, to arrive Durban a.m. 31/8 in readiness for escort duty.
(b) COLOMBO to leave Mombasa forthwith at 20 knots for Mauritiuos.
(c) NEPTUNE to leave Mombasa forthwith with despatch through Mozambique Channel. Intend to retain NEPTUNE for the present.
(2) Not intended to altar Convoy movements or escorts already arranged.
(C. in C., E.I., 0612/27)

Following received in Merchant Navy Code by W/T from SS BHIMA (in Mozambique -Channel) : "BRITISH COMMANDER cancelled "Q" Message, 0125 at 0236 but keying and note different suggest transmission of raider 0545/27" I also consider cancellation of message was made by raider. BRITISH COMMANDER is being ordered to indicate her position. Message will be broadcast in merchant navy code from Mauritious Mombasa and Jacobs Radio. KANIMBLA to try and D/F any reply and report results N.O. i/c Simonstown requested to arrange for South Africa D/F station to do likewise. BRITISH COMMANDER was bound for Abadan from Capetown. (C. in C., E.I. 1746Z/27)

/French Oiler..

MOST SECRET

War Diary

27.8.1940.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

French Oiler ELORN

HINDUSTAN is searching for suspicious vessel possibly French Naval oiler ELORN sighted by R.A.F. at 0800Z/25 in position 012° 02' 045° 18' course 060° 8 knots. If vessel is sighted and proves to be French Naval Oiler ELORN should she be treated as neutral warship (Admty. 2326/12/7) and be allowed to proceed or should she be taken to Aden ? Captain-on-Staff Singapore's 1230/26 refers (C. in C., E.I., 1042Z/27)

Reply see 0426/28 and 1630/28.

If ELORN sighted before reply to my 1042/27 ~~sighted before reply to my 1042/27,~~ HINDUSTAN is to shadow. (C. in C., E.I. 1044/27 to S.N.O. Red Sea Force.)

Troop Convoys

U.S. 4., B.N. 5., ships available, etc., (D of S.T. to P.S.T.O. Bombay 1135/27)

Port Sudan

S.T.O's are en route to Port Sudan. Anticipated office will be in operation by 1/9. (P.S.T.O. Egypt 1915/27)

French Somaliland

Consul Djibuti tel. 490 to F.O. regarding return of persons to French Somaliland. Request early information if decided ships are to be intercepted. (C. in C., E.I. 1139Z/27)

Operations

Calling attention to H.E. C/17601 of 26/8 to W.O. My 1214/14/6 and 0600/26/8 refer. Each port watched recently by COLOMBO for a week at a time but no movement of shipping observed at either. Consideration given to bombardment by "C" class cruisers. (C. in C., E.I., to Admty., 1318Z/27- See Operations Volume)

Scotia Penrose

Reply to Admty. 1823"26 (C. in C., E.I. 1444/27-See operations Volume)

ROYAL SOVEREIGN

Re oiling arrangements at Durban. (D. of Stores to C. in C., E.I., 1738/27)

/French Attitude...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

27.8.1940.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies- Contd.

French Attitude

Capt. on Staff Singapore's 1220/26 is passed to you. Request you will ascertain views of Indian Government as to whether French Authorities in India propose to attempt compliance with French Government orders or whether they confirm they are now British Protectorates (see my 0812/13/7 (C. in C., E.I., 1134Z/27 to F.O.C.R.I.N.)

~~KAMPALA, COLOMBO, MAURITIUS~~ ~~My 1416/27. Dispositions ordered. Not intended to alter convoy movements or escorts already arranged. (C. in C., E.I. 0612/27)~~

Convoy WS 5A

As WS 2 B troops from Cape to Egypt are being sent direct in WS 2 A and as Middle East cannot accept Niblick 3rd echelon before B.N. 6., it is intended to cancel B.N. 5 & B.S. 3½ to sail as arranged (C. in C., E.I. 1440Z/27)

America & West Indies

U.S.A.

Re exchange of technical information (Hd. of M. to C.N.S. Ottawa, 1115/27. See Operations Volume)

T.C. 7.

EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA, GEORGIC, DUCHESS OF YORK, SCYTHIA, ORONSAY and PASTEUR. escorted by REVENGE and OTTAWA, sailed 1500. Route Date of arrival. (B.S. 3. 1631/27)

DUNEDIN

Orders for patrol and to proceed St. Lucia for fuel(C. in C., A.W.I., 0952/27)

Enemy Unit

D.F. Transmission (C. in C., A.W.I. 1947/27) Impossible to determine position, probable N.W. of British Isles. (D.D.I.C. 0917/28)

Australia & New Zealand

French Ports

British and Allied vessels are not to call at French ports in Area 11 until further orders (S.O.I. Wellington 0703Z/27)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

27.8.1940.
Tuesday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

ARKADIA — Arrived Istanbul 26/8. (Galata, 1507/27)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

27.8.1940.
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

	Ships Attacked
STAKESBY	(torpedoed 25/8) Obliged to cut hole in side as tug can no longer control fire. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1054/27)
ST. DUNSTAN	(torpedoed 23/8) In tow of tug SALVONIA (D.O.R. 27/8) 14 survivors including master landed in Belfast today (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1830/28)
EVA	Norwegian oiler, 1599 tons, S.O.S., 57.48 N., 11.50 W (EVA, 1432/27) HAVELOCK and HURRICANE to attack U/B (C. in C., W.A. 1607/27) This may be U/B being hunted in 57.02 N., 11.04 W., (C. in C., W.A. 1609/27) Sighted by aircraft abandoned and apparently on fire 57.55 N., 11.25 W., at 1933. (Donibristle. 1950/27) Abandoned in 57.37 N., 11.31' W. Small fire on board extinguished by party from HURRICANE. Consider ship salvageable. Continuing hunt (Capt D. 9. 2251/27) Tug ENGLISHMAN sailed 0225/28 F.O.I.C. Greenock)
LEONADAS M. VALMAS	Greek, 2080 tons, torpedoed and derelict 4 miles west of Arran Island (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1940/27)
H.M.S. DUNVEGAN CASTLE	A.M.C., torpedoed 270°, 55° N., 11° W., 28. (DUNVEGAN CASTLE 2307/27) WINCHELSEA, HARVESTER, etc., ordered to attack submarine (C. in C., W.A., 2351/27) Convoy keep well clear to northward (A.C.W.A., 2357/27) Position may be about 40 miles further on towards Tory Island. (C. in C., W.A., 0223/28) Hit by second torpedo 2224/27 (Rosyth W/T 0005/28 F.O.I.C., Greenock 0018/28) Aircraft reports in position 55.05 N., 11.05 W., at 0300 on fire and in 54.54 N., 11.00 W at 0430. Reported sunk at 0558. Boats launched. (C. in C., W.A. 0803/28) (D.C. 1126/28) Report situation of U/B hunt and whether any survivors besides those in PRIMROSE. (C. in C., W.A.,) HARVESTER arrived with 90 survivors (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1216/29)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

27.8.1940.
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

1815/26 — GERANIUM, ANTHONY, AMAZON, and WITCH to R.V. in 56.34 N., '.41 W., at 1900/27 and continue to search for U/B bombed by aircraft in that position at 1815/26, aircraft cooperating. (Capt. S.F. Belfast, 1125/27)

0935 — JAVELIN and JAGUAR to search for U/B reported at 0935 off southern entrance of Bussan Sound until required to escort LOCHNAGER, R.A.F. aircraft cooperating. (C. in C., H.F., 1257/27)

1035 — U/B reported on surface submerging. 60° 05' N., 01° 11' W., (B.3) (A.C.O.S., 1313/27)

1618 — D/F unknown enemy unit, probable U-boat, 59.30 N., 15.30 W., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C., 1601/27)

1432 — 57.48 N., 11.50 W., (EVA torpedoed, see ships Attacked) HAVELOCK and HURRICANE searching for U/B in this position HIGH) LANDER detailed to hunt U/B in 55.10 N., 25.00 W., (Capt D.9. 2124/27)

Estimated Dispositions

Italian- No news since 23rd August.
German- 1 in 50° 50' N; 12° 20' W. at 2214/26 bound northwards.
No news of the one or more U/Bs far out in the Atlantic W. of 15° W., 4 in N.W. Approaches.
1 in E. of Rosemary Bank homeward bound
1 W. of Shetlands homeward bound.
(D.D.I.C. 1221/27)

Submarines Attacked

0657-0735 — By flying boat 56.24 N., 8.36 W. Depth charge dropped. (A.C.H.Q., Plymouth 1930/27)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.8.1940.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Invasion of U.K.

Air and photographic R/C's yesterday and today show the following concentrations of M.V's :-

At Oslo: 24 effective M/V's
At Stavanger: 8 to 10 effective M/V's
At Kiel: 40 to 50 ships between 3000 and 500 tons.
At Emden: about 350 small craft between 50 and 150 feet long.
and numerous reports of Motor Craft available for Invasion purposes continue to be received.

British Air Activity

Kiel
Wilhelmshaven

9 Wellingtons last night attacked the docks at Kiel, with GNEISENAU as a special target. 37 H.E. and 180 Incendiary Bombs were dropped. Buildings in dockyard hit, heavy explosions seen and large fire started, but identification of bursts not possible. Wilhelmshaven was also attacked and bursts were seen at N. end of the Harbour.

Gironde

8 Hampdens attacked the Oil Refineries at Ambes and Panillac. Bursts were seen on the Targets and considerable fires started.

Norway

At Dolvik the larger of the two remaining oil tanks was bombed and set on fire; and at Sogne Fiord a motor Patrol boat of 90 tons was set on fire by machine-gun fire.

Enemy Air Activity

Enemy activity last night, although considerable, was not on the extensive scale of the two previous nights.

Aberdeen
Portsmouth
Ramsgate

No damage was caused to Admiralty property or Naval personnel in a raid between 0045 and 0225 at Aberdeen. Slight damage is reported at Portsmouth, where search was made at daylight for unexploded bombs suspected in the dockyard. Railway freight traffic in an out of Portsmouth has been resumed, though Railway Passenger Traffic is still suspended.

/A Salvo.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.8.1940.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

A salvo of believed 5 bombs dropped at Ramsgate at 1238 did no damage to Naval Personnel but caused some civilian casualties and damage in the town; and some damage is now reported to have been caused to roofs of R.N.A. Buildings at Priddy's Hard during the Air Raid on Portsmouth yesterday.

Mining

Operation
S.N. 14.

A force of 4 minelayers and 3 destroyers left Port ZA early today, to lay mines tomorrow in the Northern Mine Barrage, CAIRO is to provide AA protection.

Enemy minelaying last night by aircraft is suspected off Aberdeen between the Wash and Tees and also in Lowestoft Approaches. Aberdeen was closed during the first half of the day and at Lowestoft the sailing of H 49 was delayed until sweeping had taken place.

Aircraft minelaying at about 0415 today is also suspected across the North Channel off Glenarm; and 2 mines were detonated at the entrance of Belfast Lough.

Shipping

Blue Peter

An admiralty message to all British merchant ships directs that the Blue Peter is not to be flown on the day of sailing.

Operation "Menace"

A.P. 3.

The special Military convoy will include 4 personnel ships (one for the Cape) and 4 M.T. ships and will be known as A.P. 3. Sailing date has been fixed. NEWCASTLE will escort to vicinity of Azores. SHEFFIELD onwards, and CORNWALL from ~~Iceland~~ to the Cape. Troopships are BRITANNIC, ATHLONE CASTLE, DOMINION MONARCH and DURBAN CASTLE; M.T. ships, CLAN CAMPBELL, CLAN Mc ARTHUR, BRISBANE STAR and IMPERIAL STAR.

Beaton

/Italian Hostilities

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.8.1940.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Italian Hostilities

Enemy aircraft dropped bombs in Lake Mariut, Alexandria. Minor damage only was caused.

Enemy aircraft were also over Port Said but no bombs were dropped.

Suez Canal Raid

About 14 bombs were dropped on the Suez Canal zone at 0200Z 3 falling east of the canal and the remainder west in the vicinity of 9 to 21 kilometres south to Port Said, the nearest to the Canal about 300 metres away. No damage or casualties except 3 natives wounded.

Foreign Stations

Raider

A German communique claims the sinking of the BRITISH COMMANDER, which made a raider report on 27/8. Two cases of raider attacks at night having occurred recently. C. in C., South Atlantic, has explained the importance of keeping a good look out at night as well as during the day.

Treatment of Submarines

Fresh instructions have been issued regarding the treatment of submarines in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans and the Mediterranean. In certain areas efforts are being made to negotiate agreements with neutral countries, including France to ensure that neutral submarines will not be sent oitside their territorial waters without prior notification. Meanwhile, all submarines are to be treated as hostile outside such waters, with certain exceptions.

Suspicious Vessel. East Indies

A suspicious vessel, possibly the French na naval oiler ELORN, was sighted by R.A.F. at 0300/25 off the East Coast of Africa. If in ballast, she is to be allowed to proceed, if laden, to be diverted to Aden, and in the last resort force may be used to compel compliance.

Overdue Ships

3 more ships, CITY OF CORINTH, NARBADA, and BENVRACKIE are overdue at the Cape of Good Hope from England.
2 others, WESTBURY and BRITISH RELIANCE are overdue at Aden and ~~Aberdeen~~ Abadan from South African ports

/U Boat....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.8.1940.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

U-Boat Campaign.

4 ships were torpedoed in Western Approaches, all in convoy. KYNO was in HX 66 homeward bound, ASTRA II, HARTISMERE and DALBLAIR in OA 204, outward bound.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.8.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Dover A/A Defences

Your 1738/28. C. in C., Fighter Command has issued instructions withdrawing four 3.7 guns and four Bofors from Dover defences in view of (a) situation; (b) general agreement reached on this point at 19th Meeting D.C.O.S. (A.A) at which you were represented and (c) in anticipation of Chiefs of Staff approval to Paper referred to in Conclusion 5 (b) (Air Ministry 2245/28 to Adty.)

Towers at Gris Nez

Fire Commander, Dover reports he can see two towers on the French Coast bearing from F.C. Post Dover Castle 146° 25' and 146° 40'. Towers look like gantry cranes composed of two inverted V's with a beam across the top. They appear on point of Cap Gris Nez. Air Ministry Bomber and Coastal Command informed. (Hofor 1645/28 to Adty.)

Policy

French Ships

The following French ships are to be turned over to the Free French Force:-
MELPOMENE, LEOPARD, TRIOMPHANT, LORIENTAISE, ETOILE, BELLE POULE, ABEILLE(2) RUISSEAU, POULMIC, CONGRE, LUCIENNE-JEANNE.
The last two vessels have already been allocated to the French. French crews will be completed by 31/8. (N.A. F. 2 S.L. 2026/28 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

Movements

Nore Command

Anticipated night dispositions 28/29 Aug (C. in C., Nore 0800/28) Day patrols and anticipated movements to 1200/29 (C. in C., Nore 1200/ 28)

MACKAY

Position. Convoy not met. Am patrolling, HEARTSEASE in company. (MACKAY 0820/28)

VEGA
WOLSEY

Expect to arrive 1500. F.3. 63 expect to arrive Southend 1400 (VEGA 1050/28)

/Belfast A/S Patrol ....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.8.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements-Contd.

Belfast A/S Patrol	Intend to sail 46th Sub. Division p.m./30 (Capt. D. 12 1103/28 to Capt. S/F Belfast)
FORFAR -- CHESHYRE	Leave Clyde p.m./30 for Areas N and R respectively. (F.O.C.N.P. 0958/28)
LAURENTIC	Leaves Liverpool a.m. /30 for Area Q (F.O.C.N.P. 0958/28)
CIRCASSIA	My 1036/12. Cancel last 3 words. CIRCASSIA to return through following positions. (F.O.C.N.P. 0958/28)
FIJI	Is required for a special operation and is sailing from Rosyth 29/8 (A.C.N.S. H. 1521/28 to C. in C., Nore)
Orkneys	Movements for night 28/29 (A.C.O.S. 1607/28 State of A/S Trawlers (A.C.O.S. 1930/28)
Portsmouth	Movements for night 28/29. (C. in C., ortsmouth 1737/28)
NORFOLK AUSTRALIA	Arrive Scapa 0620/29 from Northward. (A.C.O.S. 2022/28)

Operations.

Group off Dutch Coast	Three 70 foot M.T.B's are to proceed as convenient to Yarmouth today and sail at 2100 for vicinity of Texel. Sweep towards Terschelling at slow speed and attack any ships sighted. Boats are to be well clear of coast by daylight. H.44 is patrolling areas H one and two. (C. in C., Nore, 0952/28 to S.O. M.T.B's Harwich)
Convoy M.P. Air Protection	Admiralty 2329/23 and C. in C., Western Approaches 1909/24. Request air escort may be arranged for both sections of convoy M.P. on 31st/8 and 1/9, and as much as possible on 2/9. Also fighter cover while convoys are within range. 2. Code words for Scapa section 'DELTA' and for Liverpool section 'GAMMA' 3. Sailing aithorities will comply with Admiralty 1701/23. (D.O.D. (H) 1226 /28 to Air Min.)

/Escort.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.8.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

Escort — Adty. 2329/23 para 2. ANTELOPE and AMBUSCADE detailed. (C. in C., H.F. 1752/28 to A.C.O.S.)

Iceland — Cancel my 1008/28. Intend sail SKYRACK for Iceland, calling Dartmouth and Falmouth, passing Needles 2030/29, Dartmouth at daylight 30th. (F.O.I.C. Southampton 1614/28 to Adty.)

Your 1300/26. Report approximate position of proposed minefield. (D. of L.D. 1951/28 to F.O.I.C. Iceland.)

Your 0158/493. 27/8/40. Suggest adopting C. and informing Military Commander that arrangements should be made locally for manning these guns until proper crews arrive. (D. of L.D. 1058/28 to War Office)

Submarines

TRIAD
TRUANT — Route to position K. (given in signal) thence as directed by F.O.C.N.A. (C. in C., W.A. 1041/28) S. 2. to sail them from Rosyth p.m./29 through Irish Sea. Route (V.A.S. 1302/28 to S.2)

URSULA — Leaves Blyth 1930 and proceeds through Gap B. (C. in C., Rosyth 1340/28)

Adty's 1833/7/7 — Western Approaches Movements (C. in C., W.A. 1434/28 to Adty.) Greenock Area Movements (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1709/28 to Adty.) Orkneys Movements. (A.C.O.S. 1732/28 to Adty.)

Positions — For following 24 hours at 0600/29 in Area A. (V.A.S. 1646/28) In Area B (V.A.S. 1647/28)(V.A.S. 1952/28)

H.50 — Relieving H.44. Left Harwich 1700/28 for 53° 58 N., 3° 53' E., (S.O. S/M's Harwich 1707/28 to H.44.)

Rubis — My 1646. Escorted by Netherlands TB 25 will be exercising between Fifeness and Aberdeen from 0800 to 2100/29. (V.A.S. 2119/28)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.8.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

E-Boats

Lorient

Between 0205 and 0300/28, one E-Boat was attacked by aircraft 2 mile 200° from Pointe d'Enfer, Ile de Groix (H.Q.B.C. 1905/28) (H.Q.B.C. 0153/29)

Channel

Report indicates E-Boat activity in Channel (C. in C., W.A. 1943/28)

British Air Activity

Gironde

Between 0040 and 0155/28, 8 Hampdens attacked the Oil Refineries at Ambes and those at Pauillac. Bursts were seen on both targets and large fires were started (H.Q.B.C. 1905/28)

Kiel
Wilhelmshaven

Between 2306/27 and 0105/28, 9 Wellingtons attacked the Dockyards at Kiel and Wilhelmshaven. At Kiel 37-250 lb bombs and 180 incendiary bombs were dropped, many bursts were seen and heavy fires and explosions started, and the Mole was dive-bombed from North to South. At Wilhelmshaven 3-250lb bombs were dropped and bursts were seen at the N. end of the harbour. (H.Q.B.C. 1905/28)

Lorient

Between 0205 and 0300/28, 4 Hampdens attacked railway sidings E. of Quai Grande Bassin at Keroman, and an E-Boat 2' 200° from Pointe d'Enfer, Ile de Groix. Bursts observed close to both targets. (H.Q.B.C. 1905/28)

Patrol HC

Cancelled owing to weather. (Hatston 1617/28 to A.C.O.S.)

Patrol SAI a

Cancelled owing to weather (C. in C., Rosyth 1714/28 to Adty.)

Rosyth Area

Air Searches for 29/8. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1736/28)

Bolvik

Larger of 2 remaining Oil Tanks bombed and set on fire. (Hatston 1748/28)

Sogne Fiord

One Motor Patrol Boat 90 tons set on fire by M/G fire.(Hatston 1748/29)

At 60° 14' N., 5° 10' E., one M/V 2000 tons with gun aft was hit by 2 bombs. (Hatston 1748/28)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.8.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity

Raid on Aberdeen	0045-0225. No damage to Adty. property or Naval personnel. Suspected mine laying by aircraft off Aberdeen. Port closed till approx. 1200 (N.O.i/c Aberdeen 0256/28)
Raid on Portsmouth Area	Sporadic bombing in Portsmouth area since 2130/27. Slight damage so far reported at Gun Wharf, no casualties. Suspected unexploded bombs in dockyard. Search to be made at Daylight. Many reports of unexploded bombs in surrounding district and situation in this matter is obscure. Railway freight traffic in and out of Portsmouth has been resumed. (C. in C., Portsmouth 0400/28)
Convoy "AGENT"	Being shadowed by enemy aircraft 53° 42' N., 0° 42' E (WINCHESTER 0725/28)
Ramsgate	Bombed at 1238/28. Believed 5 bombs dropped Some civilian casualties and damage. No Naval damage or casualties. (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 1350/28 to V.A. Dover) 6 bombs dropped. No Naval casualties. One Civilian injured. Following damage to -Buildings and to Ketch WYVERN by splinter: (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 1445/29)
Bristol Channel	Air Raid 27/28. some damage to Shell-Mex Factory at Avonmouth. No other damage. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1245/28 to Adty.)
Portsmouth	Details of damage to Priddy's Hard by air raid on 27/8. (Supt. C.E. Portsmouth 1600/ 28 to C.E. in C., Adty.)
Newhaven	Heavy bombing heard to N.E. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 2104/28 to Adty.)
Chatham	At 2100/28, 13 H.E. bombs and 2 incendiary bombs were dropped on dockyard. Damage to water and gas mains and buildings estimat £4000. Two minor casualties (Supt. C.E. Chatham 1310/29 to Civil Lord)
Coventry	Naval establishments attacked by aircraft at about 2140/28. Slight damage to buildings. (N.S.O. Coventry 1430/29 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

26.8.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Clearance of Would — By GOSSAMER (M.S.5.) and HARRIER. Arrangements (C. in C., Nore 1126/28)

Operation S.N. 14. — Port Z A departures 2130/27. R.A.M.L. in SOUTHERN PRINCE, MENESTHEUS, PORT QUEBEC, PORT NAPIER, Capt. D. 6. in TARTAR BEDOUIN ASHANTI to carry out S.N. 14. (TRELAWNEY 0501/28)

Minelaying off Lowestoft — Owing to suspicion of minelaying by enemy aircraft in Lowestoft Approaches, sailing of H 49 is to be delayed till Channels leading to Q.Z.S. 30 have been swept. H.49 should then be given new orders by S.O. S/MS Harwich. (C. in C., Nore 0535/28)

Aberdeen — Port closed until approx. 1200/28 (A.C.O.S. 0828/28) See also enemy air activity. Searched with M. sweeps. No result. Port is now open. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1734/28 to C. in C., Rosyth)

North Channel — 3 Enemy aircraft flying between 0405 and 0428/28 one mile each side of line 55° 8' N., 5° 38' W., to 55° N., 5° 47' W., may have been minelaying. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1450/28 to C. in C., W.A.)

Belfast — 2 small Red mines detonated by single L today 138° 13 cables from Black Head (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1740/28 to Adty.)

Fast Minesweepers — Cancel my 1513/27 (Requesting Fighter Protection for 5 Fast Minsweepers) (C. in C., Nore 2003/28 to A.O. C. in C., F.C.)

/Enemy Intelligence...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.8.1940.
-Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Intelligence for A.M.C's on Western Patrol

Request I may be passed all enemy reports and Astress messages and signals concerning are patrols. Air searches, and merchant ships on the North Atlantic Station that may affect A.M.C. on the Western Patrol (F.O.C.N.P. 0845/28 to F.O.C.N.A)

Small Craft at Emden

PRU Sortie H/132 date 28/8/40 shows remarkable assembly of small carft at Emden. In all some 350 small craft in groups varying from 50 ft to 150 ft. dispersed about harbour. An entirely new feature in Emden. (P.I.U. 0200/29 to N.I.D)

BISMARCK
BREMEN
EUROPA

Still at Hamburg in previously reported Berths at 1200/28 (PIU 2048/28 to N.I.D)

Zeebrugge

At 1400/28 a small steamer about 200 feet long at outer end of Mole. (P.I.U. 2105/28 to N.I.D.)

Ostend

No shipping or activity (PIU 2105/28 to N.I.D)

Kiel

At 1130/28 about 40 medium to large M/V's at Holtenau end of Kiel Canal in Kiel Harbour. GNEISENAU in North Floating Dock. Hitler's Yacht GRILLE at Holtenau Pier. (P.I.U. 1945/28 to N.I.D)

Wilhelmshaven

At 1230/28 TIRPITZ and one HIPPER class cruiser in Bauhafen (P.I.U. 2012/28 to N.I.D.)

At 60° 18' N., 5° 11' E., one M/V of 2000 tons; and one Patrol Vessel, possibly MI-M 36 class, at 60° 18' N., 4° 58' E., steering West. (Hatston 1748/28)

/Shipping.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.8.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping
H.G. 42	Escort and route (C. in C., W.A. 0920/28)
S.L. 43	Estimated position (C. in C., W.A., 1006/28 Route (FOWEY, 1930/28) Orders to escort (C. in C., W.A. 1237/28, 1604/28)
S.C. 1	Steer to pass through 56.12 N., 7.38 W., thence eastward of Skerryvore, thence route K. (C. in C., W.A. to LEITH for CLARKIA, 1144/28)
O.B. 204	Position (C. in C., W.A. 1219/28) Clyde portion arrived (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1020/28)
O.A. 205	Position (C. in C., W.A., 2347/28) (A.C.O.S 1607/28)
H.X. 66	Position and routes (V.A.S. 2254/28)
C.W. 10	Programme (C. in C., Nore 1116/28)
Escorts	For F.S. 66,67,68 and F.N. 69. (C. in C., Rosyth 1006/28) In event of escort being detached A.M.C's in company should open out to a distance not less than 30 miles apart. (F.O.C.N.P. 1140/28)
W.N. 11	Sailed 0800/28. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0945/28 List 1100/28)
S.L. 45	Position (D.T.D. 1539/28)
H.G. 43	Route (D.T.D. 1231/28)
S.L. 46	List (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1217/27)
O.A. 204	On leaving KING SOL and ANGLE to R.V. with H.X. 67 (C. in C., W.A. 2244/28)
Blue Peter	Not to be flown on day of sailing (D.T.D. 1230/28)
Routes, A.M.C's	In view of loss of DUNVEGAN CASTLE, propose A.M.C's proceeding U.K. with convoys remain with their convoy until past Mull of Kintyre (C. in C., W.A. 1653/28) Approved (D.O.D. (H) 1839/29)
GOTEBORG	Expects to arrive Akureyri 3/9. Will require bunkers. (D.O.D. (H) 1149/28)
AGUILA	Your 1140/22. Not available to call at Lisbon (D.T.D. to Consul Lisbon 1914/28)
AVUCETA	Expect ready Lisbon for return to U.K. about 15/9. (D.T.D. to Consul Lisbon 1914/28)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

28.8.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Fishing Vessels Fishing vessels working from certain small tidal harbours in the Rosyth area have been given permission to leave harbour before daylight when tide does not permit them to sail after sunrise, provided they anchor close to harbours mouth and are darkened.

Small harbours referred to are:- Sockenzie and Port Seton, South side of Firth of Forth. St. Monans, Pittenweem, Anstruther, Crail, North side of Firth of Forth. Dunbar, Evemouth, Burnmouth, Berwick, St. Abbs, South-East coast of Scotland. (D. of L.D. 1234/28).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

28.8.40.
Wednesday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

PORT DARWIN — British, 8063 tons. Have been in collision with unknown vessel 4 miles N. of 20 E. buoy. (PORT DARWIN, 2355/28 to Adty.) Collided at 2230/28 with Dutch DRIE BERGEN in 55°25' N. 1°22' W. PORT DARWIN was in FN convoy (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0947/29 to C. in C., Rosyth).

CITY OF CORINTH — British, 5316 tons. Left Liverpool, 27/7 for Bombay. Not reported at Cape of Good Hope. (S.O.I. Cape Town, 1538/28 to Adty.)

BENVRACKIE — British, 6464 tons. Left London 29/7 for Hong Kong. Not reported at Cape of Good Hope. (S.O.I., Cape Town, 1538/28 to Adty.)

NARBADA — British, 8988 tons. Left London 30/7 for Calcutta. Not reported at Cape of Good Hope. (S.O.I., Cape Town, 1538/28 to Adty.)

DRIE BERGEN — Dutch. Sunk in collision with PORT DARWIN at 2230/28 in 55°25' N. 1°22' W. Crew landed in Tyne by trawler KOPANES. Was in MT. convoy. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0947/29 to C. in C., Rosyth).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

28.8.40.
Wednesday.

GENERAL

Treatment of Submarines

Following instructions which replace all previously issued are to govern treatment of submarines in area North of the Equator East of 45° W. and West of 90° E. Efforts being made to negotiate agreements with neutral countries, including France, to insure that neutral submarines will not be sent outside their territorial waters without prior notification etc. Meanwhile all submarines submerged or unescorted on the surface are to be treated as hostile outside neutral territorial waters with certain exceptions (specified). Submarines inside neutral territorial waters are not to be attacked, unless an attack is first delivered from inside territorial waters when it may be returned. With exceptions specified all submarines off the coasts of German occupied territory are to be treated as enemy. These instructions apply only to warships. Rules for ship-borne and shore-based aircraft will be promulgated. (Head of M. 2033/28).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

28.8.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace".

BARHAM — In view of U-boat in 57.40 N., 12.20 W., propose BARHAM be ordered to pass through 58.20 N., 15.00 W. and thence to position (c) in my 1907/24. (C. in C., W.A. 0844/28 to C. in C., H.F.). Concur (C. in C., H.F., 0922/28). Comply with my 0844/28 (C. in C., W.A. to BARHAM, 1047/28). My position course and speed. (ECHO to BARHAM, 1104/28).

Aircraft — Swordfish aircraft to embark in ARK ROYAL by a certain date. (D.N.A.D. to C. in C., S.A., 1145/28). See Operations Volume.

Convoy A.P.3 — Date of sailing, and destinations. NEWCASTLE to escort to vicinity of Azores and SHEFFIELD onwards. CORNWALL will escort from Freetown to Cape. (D.O.D.(F) 1642/28). A.P.3 consists of troopships BRITANNIC, ATHLONE CASTLE, DOMINION MONARCH and DURBAN CASTLE and M.T. ships, CLAN CAMPBELL, CLAN McARTHUR, BRISBANE STAR and IMPERIAL STAR. (1st S.L., 1832/28)(See Operations Volume).

Boom Vessels — Request boom working vessel QUANNET may be placed under orders Force M and made ready for sea (date). Additional boom vessels are being sent vide Adty. 1845/24. (D.O.D.(F) to C. in C., S.A. 1241/28).

North Atlantic

Air Patrols — 3 A/S patrols carried out, one recco., area covered Spartel to 250 miles east of Gibraltar. (200 Group 1730/28).

Force "H" — Expected time of arrival 0530/29. (S.O. Force H. to F.O.C.N.A. 1630/28).

MOST SECRET

28.8.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace".

BARHAM — In view of U-boat in 57.40 N., 12.20 W., propose BARHAM be ordered to pass through 58.20 N., 15.00 W. and thence to position (c) in my 1907/24. (C. in C., W.A. 0844/28 to C. in C., H.F.). Concur (C. in C., H.F., 0922/28). Comply with my 0844/28 (C. in C., W.A. to BARHAM, 1047/28). My position course and speed. (ECHO to BARHAM, 1104/28).

Aircraft — Swordfish aircraft to embark in ARK ROYAL by a certain date. (D.N.A.D. to C. in C., S.A., 1145/28). See Operations Volume.

Convoy A.P.3 — Date of sailing, and destinations NEWCASTLE to escort to vicinity of Azores and SHEFFIELD onwards. CORNWALL will escort from Freetown to Cape. (D.O.D.(F) 1642/28). A.P.3 consists of troopships BRITANNIC, ATHLONE CASTLE, DOMINION MONARCH and DURBAN CASTLE and M.T. ships, CLAN CAMPBELL, CLAN McARTHUR, BRISBANE STAR and IMPERIAL STAR. (1st S.L., 1832/28)(See Operations Volume).

Boom Vessels — Request boom working vessel QUANNET may be placed under orders Force M and made ready for sea (date). Additional boom vessels are being sent vide Adty. 1845/24. (D.O.D.(F) to C. in C., S.A. 1241/28).

North Atlantic

Air Patrols — 3 A/S patrols carried out, one recco., area covered Spartel to 250 miles east of Gibraltar. (200 Group 1730/28).

Force "H" — Expected time of arrival 0530/29. (S.O. Force H. to F.O.C.N.A. 1630/28).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

28.8.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

Overdue Ships — CITY OF CORINTH, Liverpool for Bombay, NARBADA, London for Calcutta, and BENVRACKIE London for Hong Kong, not reported Cape of Good Hope. (S.O.I., Capetown, 1538/28).

NEPTUNE — Orders and date of arrival Durban (C. in C., E.I., 1140Z/28).

DRAGON — To escort FRANCONIA for Durban, and return Simonstown. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1612/28).

FRANCONIA — To sail with transport LLANGIBBY CASTLE escorted by KANIMBLA to join convoy W.S.2 (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1612/28, 1617/28).

Raiders' Night Attacks — Two cases of raiders attacks at night have occurred recently. N.C.S.O.'s are to impress on masters of ships sailing independently importance of keeping a good look out at night as well as day. If a ship sighted during the day has acted suspiciously or a ship is seen to be shadowing, course should be altered at least four points immediately after dark and mean course for her destination should not be steered until ship is at least 6 miles starboard or port of her mean line of advance at sunset. (C. in C., S.A., 1226/28).

CARNARVON CASTLE — Propose sail 30/8 with FORFAR, LAURENTIC, CHESHIRE, escorted by 2 destroyers. Date of arrival Freetown. (C. in C., W.A., 1333/28). Approved in view of enemy submarine activity in Northern Approaches. (D.O.D.(F) 1725/28).

ARGUS — Request to arrange transport to U.K. of 14 officers and airmen pilots available at Takoradi. (D.O.D.(F) to C. in C., S.A. 1641/28).

French Troops — 100 French European officers and N.C.Os being sent to Ivory Coast, having chosen this alternative. Remainder, about 350, elected repatriation to Europe, embarking H.T. ASKA at Takoradi 28/8. Reasons for removal. (G.O.C. West Africa, 1608/28 to W.O.).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

28.8.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

French Ships, Syria. Consul General Beirut's message 97 of 28/8. I am totally opposed to these sailors leaving Syria except in their ships. Should they leave and the ships are subsequently released it will be very difficult to find crews to bring ships away; moreover, the sailors' continued presence in Syria is an indication of insistency of our demand for ships release. Consider no bargain should be struck with High Commissioner Syria on basis of release of sailors without their ships. (C. in C., Med., 0923/28).

N Class Destroyers Your 12552/19. Revised dates of completion of N class destroyers and proposals for manning five by R.A.N. (Hd. of M., 1212/28 to A.C.N.B., repeated C. in C. Med.).

Meteorology Fact that meteorological observations from stations in Italian and Turkish territories are being used in Fleet synoptic messages to be treated as secret. (C. in C., Med., 1901/28).

PERSEUS Orders to leave patrol for Alexandria. (Capt. (S)1, 1601/28).

Turkish Ferry Boats Your 1143/24. Not possible to sail through Mediterranean. Therefore will be sent via Cape. (Hd. of M., 1502/28).

Turkish Defences My 1218/21. Viceroy not anxious for this special defence for Kilia. Reasons. (N.A., Angora 1758/26, by cable recd. 1800/28). (See Mediterranean Volume).

Mediterranean - Air

Enemy Raids 0440/28 enemy dropped bombs in lake Mariut, Alexandria, Minor damage only. 0454, enemy aircraft over Port Said, no bombs. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1017/28).

Reconn. 1 Sunderland 230 Sqdn. reconn. North African Coast, W. Mediterranean. 4 enemy destroyers 1 transport 37.40 N., 12.04 E. Same force later observed 37.52 N., 11.52 E. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1001/29).

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Air (Contd.)

Canal Raid — Enemy aircraft dropped about 14 bombs about 0200Z, probably 250 pound light cases, three E, of Canal, remainder W. in the vicinity of 9 to 21 Kilometres S. from Port Said. Nearest to Canal fell about 300 metres away and 3 fell in a village in neighbourhood of Damietta, believed 3 wounded natives. No other damage or casualties. Aircraft were at about 10,000 feet. (S.B.N.O., Suez Canal, 2003Z/28).

East Indies

ELORN — Your 1042 and 1044/27. If ELORN is located by HINDUSTAN and is in ballast she is to be allowed to proceed. If laden, she is to be shadowed pending further instructions. (Hd. of M. to C. in C., E.I., 0426/28). My 0426. If laden, ELORN is to be diverted to Aden, ostensibly for verification of cargo. In the last resort, force may be used to compel compliance. (D.O.D.(F), 1630/28).

Raider — My 0400/27. German Communique claims sinking of BRITISH COMMANDER. Signal intercepted at 0238/27 believed to have been made by raider cancelling BRITISH COMMANDER's distress signal. (D.D.I.C. 1805/28). Description of raider (C. in C., E.I., 0414/28).

Overdue Ships — WESTBURY, Aden 22/8 from Durban, BRITISH RELIANCE Abadan 22/8 from Capetown. (C. in C., E.I., 0604/27 recd. by cable 1906/28).

KANIMBLA — To proceed to Durban at best possible speed at dusk 28/8 if by then raider has not been seen or heard of. (C. in C., E.I., 0726Z/28).

Troop Transport — Numbers for onward passage from India to Singapore, etc. (D. of S.T., 1222/28 to P.S.T.O., Bombay). Shipping is available for 3rd echelon Niblick and will sail in B.N.6. Suggested U.S.4 be transhipped Bombay and sail as fast convoy in BN.5½. (ships). (P.S.T.O. Bombay, to D.S.T., 1200/28)

MOST SECRET

28.8.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies (Contd.)

Troop Transport (Contd.) D. of S.T.'s 1125/27 and my 1440/27. Request reply to (a) whether U.S 4 troops can be received in Egypt in BN.5½ leaving Bombay (date). If so a BN.5½ convoy can be run provided I know in time to arrange escorts. (b) Whether second and third request of Niblick can be received together in BN.5 in view of your OM 2/17570 of 26/8. (C. in C., E.I., 0804Z/28 to C. in C., Med.)

Zeila Your 0818/28. Approved for destroyer to bombard ~~Zeila~~ positions jointly with R.A.F. bombing (date). (C. in C., E.I., to S.N.O. Red Sea, 1626Z/28). Project dropped (C. in C., E.I., 1932/29). See Operations Volume.

Italian Supplies Reply to C. in C., E.I., 0608/26, re Italian supplies through Mogadishu (D.N.I. 1947/28). C. in C., Middle East, 2237/26 (recd. from W.O. 1410/28) re supplies through Italian Somaliland. See Operations Vol.

My 1218/23 para. 2. Amend positions (d) and (e). Convoy WS.2A is not to be within 50 miles of Guardafui in daylight. Straits of Bab-el-Maneb are to be approached at dusk. (C. in C., E.I., 1146/28).

China

Indo-China. Trade Adty. 1939/24. Appears no economic guarantee can be given because up to date British banks in Indo-China have no control over activities of the Bank of Indo-China (bank issue) who are believed to be in continuous communication with France. Personal statements by Governor General and by financial authorities have since armistice been only security against France benefiting from British trade with Indo-China. Situation appears very unsatisfactory particularly as Inspector General of Bank of Indo-China has expressed desire for closer co-operation with British. N.L.O. Saigon, 0300Z/28 to C. in C., China).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

28.8.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

Norwegian Ship — Your 1051/24 25 Hotchkiss machine gun equipments being forwarded to Bermuda for Allied Vessels. One only should be provided to eachship. Arrangements made for 200 Smith and Wesson Semi-automatic guns now manufacturing in U.S.A. to be supplied to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa for temporary use in Allied Vessels pending arrival in U.K. when they will be supplied with Hotchkiss machine guns and L.A. Guns. Notraship has been requested to reassure their vessels. (D.T.D. 1055/28).

R.C.N. Cadets — My 0917/1 R.C.N. naval cadets sailed for Welland 27/8 in DUCHESS OF YORK. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1022/28).

Destroyers — Adty. 1938/24. Question when R.C.N. shall man the 6 destroyers still under Government consideration. (C.N.S., Canada, 1621/28).

T.C.7 — Sailed 1500/27 escorted by REVENGE. Route (B.S.3, 1631/27, recd. 0020/28).

PRESIDENT SERGENT — My 1151/7, service in PRESIDENT SERGENT. 8 Yugoslavs and 1 Cypriot took passage to U.K. in OROPESA. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1124/28).

Australia & New Zealand

Convoy US.4 — Details of route and escorts. (S.O.I., Wellington, 0029/28).
Departure Cooks Strait R.V. 2230Z/27.
Comdr. Comdg. N.Z. Sqdn. in ACHILLES with H.M.T. MAURETANIA, EMPRESS OF JAPAN, ORCADES for Fremantle. (S.O.I., Wellington, 0309Z/28).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

28.8.40.
Wednesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

LIVENZA	Left Fiume 26/8 destination not known believed in ballast. (Suenk, 1900/26, recd. 1653/28).
NORBURG	Arrived 26/8. (Constanza, 0212/26, recd. 1444/28).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

28.8.40.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

ELLE sunk — Finnish 3868 tons. S.O.S., torpedoed, lifeboats gone, receiver broken, no position, given bearing 311 G.M.H. and 305 approx. from G.P.K. (ELLE, 0325/28 ? G.M.T.). (Land's End Radio, 0257/28). Ship of Convoy S.C. one (homeward bound from Nova Scotia) torpedoed in position 57.40 N., 12.20 W. Proceed with despatch. (C. in C., W.A., 0503/28, to SABRE and SCIMITAR). Sunk (D.S.358). Sunk in 57.43 N., 12.18 W. 27 survivors including Master picked up, 2 killed. Contact not established. Am rejoining convoy. HAVELOCK and HURRICANE sweeping in vicinity. (LEITH, 0332, 0627/28).

EVA — (Torpedoed 27/8). Tug ENGLISHMAN sailed (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 0225/28). Position of EVA is 57.37 N., 11.31 W. Weather has now deteriorated. (Capt. (D) 9, 0852/28). Was in advance of convoy SC.one (DS.358).

ASTRA II sunk — Argentine 4302 tons. In convoy OA.204. Attacked by U/B. Sunk. 18 survivors. (GLEANER, 0445/29). 56.09 N., 12.14 W., H.M.S. USK starboard wing ship, GLEANER port bow, CLEMATIS starboard bow. No sign of CLEMATIS since 0025. Attack began 2335/28. S/m fired first torpedo across bow of ASTRA II which struck HARTISMERE then torpedoed DALBLAIR. ASTRA II turning towards about 35° was torpedoed after about 3 miles (GLEANER, 0845/29).

HARTISMERE — British, 5498 tons. In convoy OA.204. Torpedoed, still afloat. (GLEANER, 0445/29). 56.09 N. 12.14 W. Am standing by HARTISMERE who is putting back at slow speed. Where are you? (GLEANER to CLEMATIS, 0715/29) Am escorting HARTISMERE. (GLEANER to C. in C. W.A., 0845/29). (For CLEMATIS, see DALBLAIR torpedoed).

MOST SECRET

28.8.40.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked (Contd.)

DALBLAIR — British, 4608 tons. In convoy OA.204. Torpedoed, reported sunk. ALIDA GORTHON reports 20 survivors, believed from DALBLAIR. 56.09 N., 12.14 W. (GLEANER, 0445/29, 0845/29). CLEMATIS in company W/T out of action reports OA.204 scattered at 2330/28 in 56.00 N., 12.59 W., when DALBLAIR torpedoed and sunk. All survivors rescued. CLEMATIS unable to reform OA.204 My position 2345, 53.48 N., 16.26 W. (VISCOUNT, 1300/29).

JAMAICA PIONEER — (torpedoed 25/8). Expect arrive Greenock 2000/29, survivors on board as in my 1842/26. (ANTHONY 1038/29).

KYNO sunk — British 3946 tons, torpedoed 58.06 N. 13.26 W. Am searching. (MACKAY, 2014/28). Tug THAMES proceeding. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 2345/28). Homeward bound in convoy HX.66 (D.O.R. 29/8 THAMES report KYNO sunk (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1646/29).

CUMBERLAND — (Torpedoed 23/8). Two survivors landed in Belfast from destroyer today. (N.O.I.C. Belfast, 1830/28).

JAMAICA PIONEER — (Torpedoed 25/8). 14 survivors including Master landed in Belfast from destroyer today. (N.O.I.C. Belfast, 1830/28).

LEONIDAS M. VALMAS — (Torpedoed 20/8). Tug SCHELDE sailed to salve her, derelict off Aran Island. (D.O.R., 28/8).

Submarines Reported

1130 — S/m sighted by HINDPOOL, 55.14 N., 10.10 W. (Portsmouth W/T, 1155/28). ARROW and ACHATES to hunt (Capt. S.F., Belfast, 1220/28). Cancel my 1220. (Capt. S.F. Belfast, 1231/28). WINCHELSEA and HARVESTER to attack. (C. in C., W.A., 1207/28). Your 1118, area has been fairly swept by ships acting separately. HARVESTER is mopping up HINDPOOL's position at 28.1. WINCHESTER following at more economical speed owing to lack of fuel. HARVESTER

reports.....

War Diary

MOST SECRET

28.8.40.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported (Contd.)

1130 (Contd.) reports having 90 survivors on board. (WINCHELSEA, 1301/28 to C. in C., W.A.)

0627 (see ELLE torpedoed). HAVELOCK and HURRICANE completed sweeping astern of SC.1. In my 1400 position will be 57.24 N., 11.05 W., SABRE and SCIMITAR joined me. (Capt. D.9 1242/28).

1130 A.F. message 37.38 N., 20.55 W. at 1030 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 1556/28).

1200 59.50 N., 1.35 W., course 270°. Periscope depth. Dived when sighted (B.1). (A.C.O.S., 1601/28).

1200 Sunderland aircraft leaving Sullom Voe to search for submarine reported in 59.54 N., 1.39 W. at 1200/28. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1614/28). JAVELIN, JAGUAR, AMBUSCADE and ANTELOPE to sweep (R.A.D., H.F., 1631/28, 1633/28).

1631 Periscope sighted 57.02 N., 09.53 W. (LEITH 1631/28). Am hunting with HURRICANE, WITCH, SABRE and SCIMITAR (Capt., D.9 1812/28).

0515 H.M.S. AMAZON in position 56°14' N. 7°33' W. at 0515/28 sighted 2 submarines on the surfnce about 2 miles away. It was early dawn. AMAZON made single letter challenge and received correct reply. One submarine then made G.E.R. to which AMAZON replied with identification signal. AMAZON then made "What ship" and received reply H. or N.18 AMAZON then proceeded both submarines had whale bows and long conning towers and were taken to be T.boats. Operations Greenock have no knowledge of our submarines being in this vicinity. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1145/29).

Course of submarines 340° approx. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 1310/29).

2 enemy.....

MOST SECRET

28.8.40.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported (Contd.)

0515 (Contd.) 2 enemy submarines on the surface were sighted off Skerryvore by AMAZON at 0515 28/8 and made correct reply on being challenged. Request you will investigate east side of Coll and Tiree and loch in Mull of Inchcohn in case enemy are there. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1245/29 to WESTERN ISLES).

Your 1145/29. SABRE H.18 and SCIMITAR should have been in this position. AMAZON to confirm that it was submarines she sighted. (C. in C., W.A., 1259/29). AMAZON persists in belief submarines were sighted but consider he may have been mistaken. Suggest confirmation SABRE and SCIMITAR sighted AMAZON and exchanged pendants. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1459/29).

1449 Aircraft over convoy report U/b in 56.40 N., 9.19 W. (C. in C., W.A., 1449/29).

Estimated Dispositions

Italian - no news.

German - 1 in 54°50' N., 11° W. at 2324/27 may operate N. of 54° N. between 11° and 15° W.
3 others in N.W. approaches. 1 of these was in about 57°40' N. 12°20' W. at 0352/28 another in 56°34' N., 8°41' W. at 1815/26 and the third is probably S. of 56° N. and E. of 11° W.
No news of the one or more far out in the Atlantic.
1 W. and 1 E. of the Shetlands both homeward bound. (D.D.I.C., 1345/28, V.A.S. 1734/28).

1

War Diary

MOST SECRET

28.8.40.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Attacked

1130 — By CANTON (escorting convoy SL.44) 164°, 38° N., 21° W., 21 X11. Depth charge dropped when submerged U/B seen. (Portishead Radio, 1130/28).

am/28 — By aircraft of Coastal Command 70' N.W. of Malin Head, attacked with depth charges. Oil appeared after first explosion, (D.O.R. 29/8).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

29.8.40.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Three M.T.Bs last night carried out a sweep from Texel to Terschelling; and NORFOLK and AUSTRALIA arrived at Scapa this morning from their sweep off Bear Island.

3 magnetic mines have been exploded at Belfast and one off Harwich; and the Kyles of Bute and Western Approach to Scapa are closed. Magnetic mines were laid at Zeebrugge during last night.

Concentrations of shipping in the Texel were attacked by our airc aft today, but the results were not observed.

The convoy OA.204 was attacked by aircraft at 1230 today about 250 miles W. by N. of Bloody Foreland; and a number of enemy raids crossed the S.E.coast during the afternoon without doing any serious damage.

Foreign Stations

Operation Hats — Force H. (RENOWN, Senior Officer) and other ships from England for the Mediterranean, arrived Gibraltar 0930. They included VALIANT, ILLUSTRIOUS, ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD, A/A ships COVENTRY and CALCUTTA and 11 destroyers. 4 other destroyers arrived from the East.

Cameroons — BIRDGEWATER, at Duala, reported at 1400/29 that the local reception of allegiance to General de Gaulle was most cordial, a large community demonstrating pro-British feelings on her arrival alongside. Pending further decision, the capital is to remain at Duala.

Malta — V A. Malta, anticipates local enemy mine-laying and has asked for at least 2 more minesweepers. Malta was raided by 30 aircraft at 0840, but there were no Service casualties, although damage was caused to civilian property.

War Diary

MOST SECRET

29.8.40.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT

Foreign Stations (Contd.)

Somaliland

An appreciation has been received from the Dominions Office of the services of H.M.A.S. HOBART in the Somaliland evacuation.

The projected bombardment of Zeila has been deferred. Although the Berbera commitment has ended C. in C., East Indies, sees no prospect at present of being able to recommend a reduction of the Red Sea Force, which still does not permit of offensive action, e.g. control of arrival and departure by sea at enemy's bases.

China

In spite of a previous assurance to the contrary, British ships are being detained at Saigon, apparently by Admiral Tersaux without the authority of the Governor-General, Indo-China. The latter has been instructed by the Vichy Government that ships of all nationalities must be detained in ports in France and French Colonies pending further orders, but he is agreeable to release British ships and asks that in order to facilitate his task all ships under control of C. in C., China should not sail for Indo-China pending further developments.

Raiders

C. in C., America and West Indies, proposes certain changes in HX. convoy routes in the event of an increase in enemy raider activities in the North Atlantic.

Australia

The first 2 minesweepers building in Australia for the Adty. are due for completion in October and November.

U-Boat Campaign

A torpedo fired at convoy HX.66B passed through and missed all ships. The track was observed by aircraft, which depth-charged and bombed the U-boat, and MACKAY also attacked it.

War Diary

MOST SECRET
29.8.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

GOTEBURG — (With repatriated British prisoners). Request you arrange that master be enabled to inform Swedish Legation in London of his arrival at Akureyri. (D.O.D.(H), 1501/29 to F.O.I.C. Iceland).

French Warships — am.2026/28. F.S. TRIOMPHANT now being fitted with latest style Asdic gear, also H.A. gun being fitted instead of L.A. gun and accommodation being improved to take British personnel. Above alterations due to be completed end September In view of above, confirmation is requested that ship is to be turned over to Free French Force and if so should alterations be completed. Water boat RUISSEAU has been taken over by Ministry of Shipping and sailed to Hull. POULMIC is employed as mine watching vessel at Plymouth for which purpose she is very suitable and pers permission is requested to retain her. BELLE POULE and ETOILE auxiliary schooners now at Falmouth with no armament and no crew. Not yet allocated for any service. (C. in C., W.A., 1914/29 to Adty.)

New Rules as to Information of Intended Movements — am/0203/22/9/39 is cancelled for Home Station, and following rules substituted to prevent unexpected contacts between our own forces. (A.C.N.S.(H) 2246/29) (AM. Home 800 AZ).

Londonderry — Approved to use as a base forthwith. No need to wait 48 hours. (D.O.D.H. 1402/29 to C. in C., W.A.).

Movements

WORCESTERSHIRE CILICIA — WORCESTERSHIRE proceed forthwith and take S.E. half of N.P.41 and CILICIA take N.W. half. (V.A.N.P. 1002/29).

Harwich — A/P patrols for 29/8. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1025/29 to Adty.) Night dispositions and movements to 1200/30. (F.O. Harwich Force, 1504/29).

MOST SECRET

29.8.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements (Contd.)

Dover — Patrols for night 29/30. (V.A. Dover 1058/29)

Nore — Day patrols and movements to 1200/30. (C. in C., Nore 1200/29). Patrol T. on Night 29/30 and patrol O on night 30/31 to be carried out by 16th D.F. instead of by 21st. D.F. (C. in C., Nore, 1235/29 to F.O.I.C. Harwich).

Portsmouth — Night movement signal 29/30. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1537/29).

Belfast A/S Striking Force — (re HARVESTER, WANDERER, WITCH, and 12th D.F.). Cancel my 1713/23. (C. in C., W.A. 1859/29 to D.9, D.12).

TITANIA — Sails for Londonderry 1900/30. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1935/29 to C. in C., W.A.).

MANCHESTER, BIRMINGHAM, SOUTHAMPTON — My 1933/29 and C.I.C. report of 29/8. Request you sail MANCHESTER and BIRMINGHAM forthwith for Rosyth and place them temporarily, together with SOUTHAMPTON, under operational control of C. in C., Nore, (1st S.L. 2003/29 to C. in C., H.F.).

Operations

Iceland — It is desired to send a personnel ship to Iceland on 11/9 or soon after in company with an A.M.C. proceeding to Northern Patrol. V.A.N.P. requested to report intended date of A.M.C. sailing. (D.O.D.H. 1223/29 to C. in C., W.A.). Intended sail CHITRAL from Clyde 13/9 for Denmark Strait. (F.O.C.N.P. 2220/29 to Adty.)
Military transport CLERMISTON with cement for Reykjavik will sail in OA.207 escorted to destination by HONNINGSVAAG. N.C.S.O. Methil requested route both ships accordingly. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1331/29).
Your 1951/28. Proposed position for mine-field is about one mile N. of Reykir. Estimate not more than one mile in length. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1758/29 and 1500/30 to Adty.).

MOST SECRET

29.8.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations (Contd.)

Convoy MP.1 (R.M. Brigade) — Request you inform FIJI for Commodore in SOBIESKI of convoys likely to be met by MP.1 leaving Scapa 1200/31 and routed as in your 1909/24. (A.C.O.S. 1602/29 to C. in C., W.A.).

Operation PO. (Engelschman Cat) — CAMPBELL, HAMBLEDON, VESPER, GARTH under D.21 to repeat Operation during night 30/31, leaving Aldeburgh L.F. 2000/30, completing sweep by 0300/31, returning to Sheerness. Route and orders. (C. in C., Nore, 2322/29 to Commdre-in-C. Sheerness).

Submarines

CACHALOT — Leave patrol and proceed to arrive Falmouth 0600/2. (F.O.S/ms 1324/29).

TIGRIS — Movements (F.O. S/ms 1324/29).

ARAB. WHITE BEAR — ARAB will relieve you in Position B at 1930/31. (C. in C., W.A. 1343/29 to WHITE BEAR).

TAKU — To patrol off Gironde between 45°20' N. and 46° N. (V.A.S. 1439/29 to S.7).

Adty's 1833/7/7. — Western Approaches movements (C. in C., W.A. 1605/29).
Orkneys Movements (A.C.O.S. 1621/29).
Greenock area movements (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1805/29).
Portsmouth. L.27 at 8 hours notice. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1946/29).

Positions — For following 24 hours at 0600/30 in area A. (V.A.S. 1633/29 and 2059). In area B. (V.A.S. 1636/29).

TITANIA (S/m Depot Ship) — Report earliest time she can be sailed for Londonderry. She is to be escorted by ARROW and ACHATES. (C. in C., W.A. 1639/29 to F.O.I.C. Belfast).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

29.8.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines (Contd.)

TRUANT / TRIAD — Escorted by WHITE BEAR leave Rosyth 1900/29 northbound through Pentland Firth. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1752/29).

TETRARCH / TRITON — My 1126/27 and C. in C., W.A. 1041/28. Propose TETRARCH and TRITON follow same routes as TRIAD and TRUANT respectively. (V.A.S. 1947/29 to C. in C., W.A.). Concur. (C. in C., W.A. 0227/30 to V.A.S.)

FORTH 2nd S.F. — My 1211/4 and my 1309/6. In view of increased commitments for submarines outside North Sea intend FORTH leave Rosyth 5/9 and proceed to Holy Loch. 2nd S.F. to comprise FORTH, available T class, PORPOISE, and CACHALOT. Flotilla which is to join and to which WHITE BEAR to be attached will be decided later. (V.A.S. 2337/29 to Adty.)

E-Boats

Boulogne — At 1230/29, 5 E-Boats at Quai Chanzy and 1 at entrance to West Basin. (PIU Wembley 2000/29 to N.I.D.).

St. Catherines — 2 E-boats at 180° St. Catherines 1 mile. (Portsmouth W/T 2242/29).

British Air Activity

Patrol H.C. — Cancelled, owing to weather. (Hatston 0347/29 to A.C.O.S.)

Helder — Between 0830 and 1815/29. Aircraft attacked 3 minesweepers and shipping off Dan Helder, and 14 trawlers 5 miles N. of Frisian Islands, and one M/V heading North at 53°50' N. 7°20' E. Results not observed. (H.Q.B.C. 0300/30).

Rosyth — Air searches for 30/8. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1910/29).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

29.8.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity

Eastbourne — Coastguard Eastbourne report several bombs dropped 330° 6 miles Langley Point, Eastbourne. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 0210/29 to Adty.)

Portsmouth Air Raid Damage — My 0400/28. S.A.S.O. reports damage on the whole is slight. Suspected unexploded bomb in dockyard proved non-existant and no dangerous ones outstanding. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 0947/29 to Adty.).

Milford Haven — Efforts to put out only tank at Llanreath now on fire have failed and appears tank must burn itself out. Remaining tanks so far unaffected should be safe. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1022/29 to Adty.).

London — No damage or casualties in river of dock areas during air raids last night. Some damage to civilian property at Tilbury Village. (F.O.I.C. London 1041/29 to C. in C., Nore).

Plymouth Area — Raided by small numbers of aircraft between 2159/28 and 0100/29. No damage or casualties reported. (C. in C., W.A., 1056/29 to Adty.)

TIELBANK — British 5084 tons. Being attacked by aircraft 55°30' N. 15°30' W. (Plymouth W/T 1202/29).

Mining.

Clearance of Would — It is considered that a further search of QZ.256 should be carried out in accordance with my 1128/28. (C. in C., Nore 1003/29 to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth).

SN.14 — Completed. (R.A.M.L. 1130/29 to Adty.)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

29.8.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining (Contd.)

FD.26 — On completion of loading mines, PORPOISE to proceed with TAKU escorted by ROSEMARY to 50° N. 7° W., whence ROSEMARY to Milford Haven and PORPOISE to 46° N. 4° W. to carry out operation FD.26.(V.A.S. 1439/29 to S.7).

Enemy Intelligence

North Coast of Norway — No fishing taking place near Bear Island. No shipping activity from North Cape to Grotoy Island. (C. in C., H.F. 1127/29 to Adty.)

Helder — About 12 M/Vs with 3 warships, possibly cruisers, at Helder 29/8. Aircraft report. (D.D.I.C. 1933/29 to C. in C., H.F.) (F.O. S/ms 2136/29 to S/ms).

Brown Ridge — Aircraft report lights on water at 52°32' N. 3°52' E. at 2155/29. Investigate near Brown Ridge. (C. in C., Nore, 2321/29 to D.16).

N.E. of Zuider Zee — At Tjeuke Meer at 1750/29, 5 large barges and a heavy concentration in the canals between the Meer and Lammer. (H.Q.B.C. 0300/30).

Helder — At 1532/29. 3 large liners and 7 cargo ships in Outer Dock Basins. 4 medium sized M/Vs in Inner Dockand a stationary convoy of 6 medium sized M/Vs with 3 cruisers lying off the town. 4 M/Vs a little further to the East. (H.Q.B.C. 0300/30).

Obserndorf — At 1239/29. Four 400 ton M/Vs alongside wharf on W. side of River Oste. Many barges and railway trucks on wharf. (H.Q.B.C. 0300/30).

Bordeaux — 2 large steamers and 2 smaller steamers have left, and 7 steamers 250 to 400 feet have arrived. (PIU.0010/30).

Gironde — At Le Verdon 1 M/V 450 feet. At Pauillac Wharf one 200 ft. tanker. (PIU. 0010/30).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

29.8.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Dutch Coast — At 1500/29 in 53°28' N., 5°25' E. 2 medium sized M/Vs moving North; and at 53°32' N., 4°50' E. 6 medium sized M/Vs moving S.E. At 1542/29 in 53°50' N. 7°20' E. one M/V steering N.E. At Schiermonnikoog at 1640/29, 14 trawlers steering N.E. At 1815/29 3 minelayers or minesweepers at station 46 in Den Helder Roads. (H.Q.B.C. 1818/30).

Shipping

Convoys

OB.205	Sailed for Halifax (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1050/29
SL.43	WINCHESTER to rejoin (N.O.I.C. Belfast, 0944/29)
SL.43A	Route. (FOWEY, 2101/29).
BAS.3	Amendments to list. (D.O.D.(H) 1221/29).
Store Ships	My 1946/23. Following loading at Welsh ports, to be sailed for Clyde when ready. (D.O.D.(H) 1222/29)(N.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1915/29)
TC.7	Route. (C. in C., W.A., to REVENGE, 1817/29).
BAS.3	Amendments to Adty. 1946/23. (D.O.D.(H), 1221/29).
HX.66A } OA.205 }	In accordance with the policy to be adopted in future of altering courses of convoys after dark HX.66A and OA.205 are to make drastic alterations to courses to the North and South respectively to-night reverting to route ordered by dawn to-morrow. (C. in C., W.A., 1940/29 to HIBISCUS, ROCHESTER, etc.).
OA.206	Details (N.C.S.O., Methil, 1130/29, 1129/29). Polish destroyers BLYSKAWICA and BURZA to join. (F.O.C., D.F., Main Fleet 1630/29). Sailed. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1810/29). Escort includes Dutch M/S trawlers. (C. in C., Rosyth, 2311/29).
SL.45	Escorted by CATHAY, left Freetown, 1100/26. Route. (C. in C., S.A., 1130/29).
SL.46	Escorted by DUNNOTAR CASTLE, leaves Freetown 0700/1. (C. in C., S.A., 1130/29).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

29.3.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping (Contd.)

Convoys:(Contd.)

HX.69	Advance sailing telegram. (S.C.N.O. Halifax, 1003/29).
SC.1	Proceeding to Clyde. (LEITH, 1326/29).
OA.207	Military transport CLERMISTON to join. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1331/29).
SHX.70	Advance sailing telegram. (N.C.S.O., Sydney, C.B., 1038/29).
LAURENTIC MOOLTAN	Sailing delayed from Liverpool. (C. in C., W.A., 1433/29).
ROYAL ULSTERMAN	Left Akureyri for Seidis Fiord 1530. (N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1905/29).
DUCHESS OF RICHMOND WARWICK CASTLE	Intend sailing for Halifax and Capetown respectively. Route. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1218/29).

A.M.Cs, Routes. Your 1653/28, procedure to minimise risk to A.M.Cs in U.K. convoys, approved. (D.O.D.(H) 1839/29).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

29.8.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace"

Convoy M.S. Convoy M.S. consisting of British OCEAN COAST, French ANADYR, CASAMANCE, FORT LAMY and NEVADA escorted by French Sloop SAVORGNAN de BRAZZA and French trawler PRESIDENT HOUDUCE left Liverpool with convoy OB.204 on 26/8. Convoy M.S. parts company from OB.204 in position. 54°00' N. 18°00'W. and thence to Freetown (Route). (D.O.D.(H) 1150/29).

Convoy A.P.3 Adty. 1832/28. Consider 8 destroyers will be required as A/S escort. In view of present heavy U/B attacks, am gravely concerned at manner in which these constant calls for special destroyer escorts reducethe forces available for protecting vital trade. (C. in C., W.A. 1903/29).

North Atlantic

French Airmen Request to sail for England. (Gov., Gib., 1808/29).

Operation "Hats" Gibraltar arrivals 29/8 0930, Senior Officer Force H in RENOWN Senior Officer Aircaft Carriers, Mediterranean Fleet in ILLUSTRIOUS, VALIANT, ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD, COVENTRY, CALCUTTA, FAULKNOR, FORTUNE, FORESTER, FORESIGHT, FURY, FIREDRAKE, HOTSPUR, ENCOUNTER, GRIFFIN, GREYHOUND, GALLANT from West. NUBIAN, MOHAWK, HERO, JANUS from East. (S.O.I., Gibraltar, 0958/29).

Should weather or unforeseen circumstances cause delay in arrival of force F at R.V. code word LAG/38 numeral group indicating number of hours delay will be signalled. Destroyers accompanying Force F are GALLANT with Capt.(D) 13th D.F., HOTSPUR, GREYHOUND, GRIFFIN. (F.O., Force H, 1801/29).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

29.8.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

Cable	My 1135/24. Repairs to Capetown-St. Helena cable will be completed p.m. today. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1728/29).
CAPE RACE	Due Freetown from Glasgow 20/8 not arrived. (S.O.I., Freetown, 0800/29).
CARNARVON CASTLE	Route to Freetown, (N.P.C., 1110/29).
MALOJA	Adty. 1126/28 will entail MALOJA escorting SL.48 (date of arrival). Asking if she can be docked then. (C. in C., S.A., 1120/29).
Suspicious Ship	British ULYSSES sighted suspicious vessel at 0414 G.M.T. 26/8 in 031°50' S. 043°26'E. description as in C A F O 422/40. FREIENFELS with additional Samson post at break of forecastle and between main mast and mid ship superstructure. Lost touch in rain storm at 0600. (N.O.I.C. Durban, 1321Z/29).
French Ports	My 1301/27. British and Allied and chartered shipping not to call any French Colonial port. (C. in C., S.A., 1216/29).
YORK	Due Freetown 1/9 with 3 transports (C. in C., S.A. 1130/29).
BULOLO	Due Freetown 1/9 (C. in C., S.A., 1130/29).
ENTERPRISE	Due Freetown 2/9 (C. in C., S.A., 1130/29).
AJAX and ARGUS	Due Freetown 2/9, with 1 transport (C. in C., 1130/29).
Shipping Routes	Amending his 1411/17. (C. in C., S.A., 1732/29).
Raiders' Night Attacks	Your 1226/28. Instructions contained in my 2010/29 addressed to S.O.I. Freetown had, after careful consideration, already been drafted for inclusion in A.M.S.Is. and it is considered desirable to standardize the procedure in all areas. (D.T.D. 2102/29).

MOST SECRET

29.8.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic (Contd.)

Cameroons, Allegiance to Allies

De Gaulle representatives ask to pass following: "To General de Gaulle from Leclerc Boislambert:- Yaunce occupied yesterday 28/8 and Maroua testifies allegiance. Cameroons is under your orders. Effect of example is already made manifest. Inhabitants of Cameroons now claim honour of having led the way, their allegiance starting 0400/27. It is their conviction that consequences in West and North Africa will be far reaching. Urgently demand competent Naval Officer also several Glen Martins with pilots and mechanics, all despatched on board free French ships. Pending further decision capital will remain Duala. Intelligent and whole hearted co-operation given by Col. Clifford Colonial Administrative Service, Lt: Cdr: Leftwich R.N., and Mr. Cole Nigerian Marine. Radio Cameroons is broadcasting total allegiance of territory toneighbouring colonies. (BRIDGEWATER, 1230/29).

BRIDGEWATER. Cameroons

Inform De Gaulle's representatives BRIDGEWATER is required for urgent service elsewhere and is being relieved in Cameroons area by DELHI. Enquire whether your relief by a cruiser at Duala will be welcome. (C. in C., S.A., 1338/29 to BRIDGEWATER).

Following just received from British Vice Consul Duala. Following from Colonels Le Clerc and Bois Lambert :- Enterprise completely successful entire Cameroons is reported in hand. Conveying to you personally our great appreciation for despatch of and assistance rendered by BRIDGEWATER. (C. in C., S.A., 1712/29).

Following received from BRIDGEWATER 1400/29:- Reception Duala most cordial large community demonstrating pro British feelings on arrival alongside. Complete control by De Gaulle Mission immediately apparent. (C. in C., S.A., 1850/29).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

29.8.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

French S/ms — Endeavour to ascertain from French authorities information of position and attitude of S/ms SIDI FERRUCH and BEVEZIERRES. Also confirmation that Port Libreville and Point Noire are in free French hands. (C. in C., S.A. 0931/29 to BRIDGE WATER)

Mediterranean

Italian Casualties — Your 1708/26. Date last heard of EURO damaged secret anchorage Tobruk 27/7. Italian destroyer NEMBO secret anchorage Tobruk 2/7. Italian destroyer OSTRO in action with 7th C.S. 28/6. Italian S/m ARGONAUTA secret anchorage Tobruk 24/6. Italian s/m PROVANA at sea 30/6 base believed to be Naples.
Consider it possible that ships may have been sunk by mines and s/ms in positions where identity was not known or possibly by their own forces. Nothing known of any survivors. Request information whether enquiries to the Geneva Red Cross were from individuals or Italian Govt. (C. in C., Med., 1003/29 to D.N.I.).

Minesweepers Needed — With increased use of Malta Harbour by Warships and Store Ships, local enemy minelaying is to be expected. Only ship capable of regular sweeping in the winter months is FERMOY. Consider it essential that at least two more minesweepers should be allocated to Malta. It approved it is suggested that Welsh Coal burning ships should be sent owing to the difficulty of obtaining North Country coal. (V.A. Malta, 1419/29).

Submarines — T class submarines proceeding Medit. to be transferred to 1st S/m Flotilla from date of arriving Gibraltar. (V.A.S., 1946/29).

Operations from Malta — Malta as base for offensive operations. Decisions of Chief of Staffs Committee. (Air Min., 0510/29). See Med. Vol.

REGULUS — Orders for patrol. (Capt. S.1 1451/29).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

29.8.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (Contd.)

Joint Planning Committee — Advocating a Captain R.N., as Naval Member and Commander or Lieutenant. Commander as Assistant. (C. in C., Med., 1839/29). See Medit. Vol.

Mediterranean - Air

Malta Raid — Air raid 0840 by 12 bombers and 18 fighters. No service casualties. 6 civilians injured. Some damage to civilian property. (V.A. Malta, 2251/29).

29/8.0837 hours 12 bombers at 20,000 feet closely followed by 12 C.R. 42s. stepped up astern at 21,000 feet flew across the Island from North to South - Bombers then turned S.S.E. and circled away in a large sweep. Fighters hung about some time after and then withdrew. 4 Hurricanes up at 23,000 feet commenced to attack and were in turn immediately attacked by 6 other C.R. 42s. flying at 25,000 feet. 25 to 30 bombs (H.E. and Incendiary) dropped region of Marsa and Luqa village. No service casualties no damage to Govt. properties. Some damage to civilian buildings and 6 slight civilian casualties. (H.Q., Med., 1610/29).

EAGLE — Operation Hats. Projected attacks by F.A.A. (see Medit. Vol.) (C. in C., Med., 2017/29).

Air Bases — Adty. 1746/27/7. Negotiations for use of Mariut proceeding. Details. As some months will elapse before can be used and equipped for F.A.A., intended to ask for Dekheila in its entirety. (C. in C., Med., 2035/29).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

29.8.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

HOBART — Dominion Office appreciation of service in British Somaliland evacuation. (W.O., 2120/29 to C. in C., M.E.).

Raider — My 0416/27. Another possible description FRIENFELS with additional Sampson post, etc. (C. in C., E.I., 1410Z/29).

French Attitude — Your 1124/27. Government of India considers Governor of French Settlement in India is not likely to obey orders of Vichy Govt. even if he were in position to do so. They strongly recommend for political and mutual reasons trade with French possessions in India should be allowed to continue. (F.O.C., R.I.N., 1125Z/29 to C. in C., E.I.).

COLOMBO — Ordered to cruise from Mauritius. (C. in C./E.I. 1408Z/29).

Troop Convoys — Reply to 1200/28 so Niblick Echelon 3 deferred until BN.6 Capacity of U.S.4. (D. of S.T. 2004/29 to P.S.T.O. Bombay).

Bombardment, Zeila — My 1626/28. Project deferred. (C. in C. E.I., 1932/29) (See Operations Volume).

Somaliland Withdrawal — Report of action at Tugargin and evacuation. Covers period 11/8 to 19/8. Evacuation orders received 1200/15. By 0730/18 all except those holding Berbera were at sea. HOBART lay off morning 19/8 and rescued stragglers. Almost all transport and stores destroyed by fire by Navy before sailing. (C. in C., M.E. to W.O., 1808/29).

Convoy Programmes — My 1606/9. Use of day notation in future convoy programme will be discontinued, calendar dates will be used. (C. in C., E.I., 0524Z/29).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

29.8.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies (Contd.)

YINGA

Adty. 1738/27 suggested Norwegian ship YINGA be used x so as not to delay ROYAL SOVEREIGN. If concurred in N.O.I.C. Simonstown requested to arrange accordingly. Not expected that ATHEL DUCHESS could arrive at Durban before (date). (C. in C., E.I., 07362/29 to N.O.I.C. Simonstow).

Troop Transport

First echelon Niblick sailed Bombay in BN.4 25/8. Details and destinations (S.S.T.O., India, 08012/29 to S.T.O.'s. Aden, Suez, Egypt, etc.)

Red Sea Force Strength

My 1828/22/7. No prospect at present of being able to recommend a reduction of Red Sea Force. Still possibility of submarine attack. A/S vessels therefore still required. Italians have not so far attacked convoys, but cannot accept this as proof that they will not do so in future. No fighters are available for defence and A.A. armament only must be relied on. Escorts with good A.A. equipment therefore still needed. Minelaying still a possibility. Apart from strain on material and personnel resulting from almost continuous escort operation in a bad climate and in spite of Berbera commitments having ended, strength of Red Sea force still does not permit of offensive action, e.g., control of arrival and departure by sea at enemy's bases. Consider that so long as Italians are allowed to remain on flank and threaten this vital sea body, Red Sea Force must be kept at least at its present strength. (C. in C., E.I., 16282/29).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

29.8.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

Saigon Detention of Ships

B.L.O. Saigon reports that in spite of your assurance to Consul General British ships are being detained at Saigon. In order that status quo may be maintained and in mutual interests have informed Admiral Terraux that provided British Ships are allowed to sail I will release French ships at present detained at Hong Kong and Singapore. (C.O.I.S., Far East, 0317Z/29, to Vice Consul, Haiphong).

Local Attitude

Admiral Terraux in ordering detention of British Ship at Saigon acted without authority of Governor General on grounds that you took first action in detaining French ships at Hong Kong and Singapore. Governor General has issued orders to release all British ships in Indo China but expects in return that French ships will be allowed to proceed. Please telegraph whether I can give him that assurance. (Consul-Gen. Hanoi, 1413Z/29 to C. in C., China).

Orders from Vichy

Governor-General has received instructions from Vichy that ships of all nationalities must be detained in ports in France and French Colonies pending further orders. No discrimination was made as to nationality or Indo China. Governor General assured me that all British ships now in Indo China will be allowed to leave and he has issued instructions to this effect. In order to facilitate his task he suggests all ships under your control should not sail for Indo China pending further developments. He is fully aware of reprisals and realizes situation regarding important cargoes en route to this country. He is in a difficult position and asks for time. (Consul-Gen., Hanoi, 1727/29, C. in C., China).

ESANG

Your 0047/24. Now at Singapore with no cargo, local agent wishes to sail for Hong Kong. (F.O. Malaya, to D. of S.T., 1001Z/29).

Possible Minelayers

N.O.I.C. Hong Kŏng's 0711/26, re Chinese vessel suitable as minelayers. Request quick docking as it is important convoy should not be delayed by slow ships. (C. in C.,E.I., to F.O.,Malaya, 0602Z/29).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

29.8.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies.

SC.3	Route (N.C.S.O. Sydney, C.B. 1045/29).
U.S.Destroyers	Facilities at Bermuda re working up facilities etc. (C. in C., A.W.I. 1211/29).
RANPURA MORTCLARE EMERALD	Proposals re escort of HX.70. (F.O. 3 B.S. 1533/29).
Raiders, Policy	Policy in event of increase in enemy raider activities in North Atlantic. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1121/29).
HX.Ocean Escorts	In view of extension of enemy U-boat activity to Westward and A.M.Cs being of no value against submarines intend to give HX ocean escort instructions to leave convoy after dark on night before joining local escort if circumstances permit. (F.O. 3 B.S. 1451/29) (Concur. C. in C., W.A., 2030/30).
PRESIDENT SERGENT	My 1124/28. For 8 Yugoslav read 6 Maltese, (took passage in OROPESA). (C. in C., A.W.I., 1908/29).
Raiders, Policy	Policy in event of increase in enemy raider activity in North Atlantic. Propose following scheme for all outward shipping for Western North Atlantic proceeding in convoy. Ocean escort of homeward HX convoy, to meet outward convoy close South of rendezvous with local escort. Outward convoy to be escorted to approx. 045° W. or further West according to situation before dispersal. Route of outward ships after dispersal to be towards cover of U.S. coast, southbound ships passing if necessary West of Bermuda. Ocean escorts outward would be increased by two or three days which would necessitate provision of one additional ocean escort or increasing period between convoys to five days. If provision of ocean escorts for outward convoys is considered impracticable, ships should nevertheless continue in convoy unescorted as far as position mentioned in above. The presence of a merchant ship

closely.....

MOST SECRET

29.8.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies (Contd.)

Raider, Policy (Contd.) closely resembling an A.M.C. in an unescorted convoy might act as a deterrent to a raider.
(C. in C., A.W.I., 1121/29).

Australia

Minesweepers Commonwealth Naval Board advise that first two minesweepers building in Australia for Adty. being due for completion in October and November this year all outstanding equipment which is Adty. liability should be shipped immediately to Naval Store Officer Garden Island, Sydney, for these vessels. N.L.O. No T.O.O./29).

Asiatic Crews My 01412/18. Present situation regarding Asiatic crews. (A.C.N.B., 19052/29).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

29.8.40.
Thursday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

ITHAKA — Expected Novorossisk 4/9. (D.S.360).

NORBURG — Expected Poti. 31/8. (D.S.360).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

DUCHESSA D'AOSTRA — Consul Fernando Po reports preparing to leave during next 48 hours (1500/29). (N.C.S.O. Las Palmas 2145/29).

GIU SEPPINA GHIRARDI — Charter is Black Sea expired 28/8. Reported by Brit. V. Consul, Varna, to be leaving shortly for Italy. (D.S.306).

ARCOLA — At Teneriffe. Authorised to discharge oil fuel cargo into another tanker (unspecified). (D.S. 306).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

29.8.40.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

LEONIDAS M. VALMAS (Torpedoed 20/8). A/c sighted 1105/29, position 55°30' N., 7°14' W. in sinking condition being towed by tug on S.E. course. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q. 1915/29).

ILVINGTON COURT — British, 5187 tons, homeward bound independent-ly from Freetown. Telegram from Santa Maria Island reports arrival of 19 members of crew of ILVINGTON COURT, torpedoed 37.10 N., 21.50 W. on night of 26/8. Other boat containing master and 19 crew not yet arrived. Nobody reported missing when torpedoed. (Consul, Ponta Delgada, 1354/29). My 1354. Seaward boat arrived east coast of this island this afternoon, all safe. (Consul Ponta Delgada, 1712/29).

Convoy HX.66B — Torpedo passed through convoy 1233/29 missing all ships. (D.S. 360).

Attacks on Convoys — Star shells should be used to locate U/bs making long range attacks on convoys at night care being taken that they are only fixed on the side from which the attack is known to have taken place. (C. in C., W.A. 2049/29).

Submarines Reported

0445 — 56°09' N., 12°14 W. (3 ships OA.204 torpedoed) (C. in C., W.A., 0649/29). HARVESTER to attack. (C. in C., W.A., 0713/29). Cancel my 0713 (0758/29).

2200 — Enemy S/m reported lying in Castle Bay, Barra Island. WESTERN ISLES to investigate. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2320/29). WANDERER to investigate. (C. in C., W.A., 2359/29). SOUTHERN PRIDE, RECOIL, leaving Tobermory (WESTERN ISLES, 0118/30).

1203 — D/F of U/B close to you. Alter course to pass through 58.53 N., 8.30 W., thence course 090°. Position of OA.205 uncertain owing to weather. (C. in C., W.A., 1203/29 to HIBISCUS for Commodore JASON).

D/F of U/B close ahead of you. Steer 090° till 08° W. thence to 56°N., 8°W, thence.....

MOST SECRET

29.8.40.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported (Contd.)

1203 (Contd.)	thence route K. (C. in C., W.A., 1204/29 to MACKAY for Commodore, HEARTSEASE).
0136	58.48 N., 6.49 W. WOLVERINE and VOLUNTEER to attack (C. in C., W.A., 0219/29).
1245	2 enemy S/ms sighted off Skerryvore. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1245/29). Trawlers proceeding (WESTERN ISLES 1455/29). Cancel my 1245. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1507/29).
1041	57° N. 10° W., position indefinite. (D.S.360).
Bordeaux	Italian U/Bs are believed to be using Bordeaux. (V.A.S., to CACHALOT and TIGRIS 1956/29).
1121	59° N., 11° W., position approx. (D.S.360).
1738	58° N., 10° W., position indefinite. (D.S. 360).
Estimated Dispositions	1 Italian or German in 37°40' N., 21° W. at 1130/28 possibly patrolling. 1 in Western Approaches in general vicinity of 48° N. 15° W. 4 in North Western Approaches. Of which 1 is approx. 59° N. 11° W., 1 possibly the same, was in 58° N. 13° W. 2000/28., 1 was in 56° N. 12°10' W. 0500/29., 1 is probably within 90 miles from Bloody Foreland. A report in 50° N. 22° W. 19th Aug. strengthens view that U/Bs may be met in North Atlantic far to westward. 1 in 60°25' N. 3°25' E. 0917/29 inward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1335/29, V.A.S., 1723/29).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

29.8.40.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Attacked

0917 — One unknown s/m attacked 0917 60.30 N., 3.25 E. (A/c 248 Sqdn. 0930/29). S/m was coastal type course 135° (C. in C., Rosyth, 1054/29). Sighted on surface course 135°. A/c opened fire with front guns and hits registered in conning tower and fore deck. 2 20 lb. and 2 incendiary bombs dropped from 100 ft., overshot by 20-30 yards. U/b observed to be diving when a/c was at 400 yards range and only conning tower and stern visible when aircraft overhead. (Donibristle, 1140/29).

1240 — Track made by submerged s/m observed by a/c in 56.40 N., 9.11 W. One d/c and 3 250 lb A/S bombs dropped, d/c 20 ft. ahead, bombs 25° from track ahead at 20 yds. Oil gushes seen after bombs dropped and oil persisted. MACKAY also dropped depth charges and signalled U/B probably sunk. (Air Min., 0216/30). WANDERER and PRIMROSE to join MACKAY and hunt U/B probably seriously damaged. (C. in C., W.A., 1943/29). Have rejoined convoy, unable to regain contact after last attack. (MACKAY 2052/29). MACKAY 2052. WANDERER and PRIMROSE to continue to hunt in position given in my 1943. (C. in C., W.A., 2217/29, 2219/29). S/m was that which attacked and missed convoy HX.66B. Position 56.50 N., 9.53 W., 273° Barra Head 78'. (D.S. 360).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.8.1940.
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

V.A., Dover, desires to strengthen the Dover mine barrage during the forthcoming dark night period, to help to frustrate the use of Dover Harbour for transports in the event of invasion. There are indications that the Channel between the Outer Ruytingen and West Dyck Banks is being swept, which would provide a route southward of the main barrage.

British Air Activity

Boulogne Harbour was attacked by the Fleet Air Arm at about 2100/30, bombs being seen to hit the quays and ships alongside. St. Nazaire oil plant was attacked by 12 Wellingtons between 2245/29 and 0027/30.

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy W.N. 11 was attacked off Duncansbury Head after dark, when the Norwegian MARSTENEN was hit by a torpedo. A tug was sailed to tow her in, but she subsequently sank.

2 incendiary bombs were dropped near Car jetty, Pembroke Dock, at 0140/30, but no damage was caused.

Minelaying is suspected in the Humber.

Shipping

Enemy Agents

The master of the Norwegian tanker, TRONDHEIM at Rio de Janeiro points out that Norwegian ships, with no small arms on board, may be at the mercy of any armed enemy agents.

Overdue Report

The report concerning the WESTBURY, overdue at Aden since 22/8, has been cancelled.

Foreign Stations

Operation "Hats"

Forces F and B left Gibraltar at 0950. Force F is composed of VALIANT, ILLUSTRIOUS, CALCUTTA and COVENTRY (which are joining Mediterranean Fleet) 4 destroyers, 2 Mediterranean Fleet, and 4 destroyers of Force H. Force B consists of RENOWN, ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD and 7 destroyers.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.8.1940.
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Foreign Stations-Contd.

Cameroons

Following the allegiance of the Cameroons to the Allied Cause, General de Gaulle's local representative is asking for minelayers to protect the entrance to the Cameroons River. He is taking steps to strengthen the coastal defences.

Indo-China

C. in C., China has asked the French Governor General for an assurance that British and Allied shipping will not be detained or interfered with in French Indo-China ports, offering a reciprocal assurance so that normal trade on the station may be resumed as soon as possible.

U-Boat Campaign

4 ships were torpedoed in the North-Western Approaches today, the NORNE, CHELSEA and MILL HILL in convoy HX 66 A and the VOLENDAM (Commodore's Ship) in convoy O.B. 205. The latter had a number of passengers, including 270 Children, and was later taken in tow. The NORNE (Norwegian) was sunk; the fate of the CHELSEA and MILL HILL (British) is uncertain

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.8.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Shetlands

Your 200/9. Army here can find gun crews for Scalloway 4 inch guns of a Captain, Lieutenant, Battery Sergeant Major, Battery Quartermaster Sergeant, and two Senior N.C.O's are sent here.

The Army state that provision of crews from local batteries must only be considered as a temporary measure pending reinforcements being posted. The local adjustment will bring batteries to an absolute minimum and does not allow for 7½ per cent leave. (F.O.C.S. 1908/30 to Adty.)

Policy

A/S Vessels for Western Approaches

All A/S Vessels now working up are required in North Western Approaches as soon as practicable.
Request you will report probable dates they can be made ready for operational duties.
If it would help, send some ships to work up at Campbeltown where this is to take precedence over instruction of qualifying ratings for the present.
(D.A/S.W. 1851/30th to Commodore Western Isles)

Your 1851/30. HAARLEM sent Greenock today to re-range D.G. SOUTHERN PRIDE RECLIL and CORECPSIS completed today. CORECPSIS requires new amplifier. ANEMONE 1st LA MALOTINE fourth GLOXINIA -sixth FLEUR DE LYS seventh. Not necessary to send to Campbeltown. (Western Isles 2250/30 to Adty.)

French Ships

Following samll French ships have proved most valuable as minewatching vessels in Approached to Plymouth. PLUCASTEL, RISBAD POINTZIC, ABEILLE V, POULMIC.
Requested that these, together with A/P trawler LOMBARD may be formed into an A/P group for minewatching and auxiliary patrol duties at Plymouth. Proposed armaments have been reported in W.A. minute 4415/D 361 of 24th August.
LOMBARD already mounts a 3 pdr. gun. (C. in C., W.A. 1908/30 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

30.8.1940.
Friday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

MANCHESTER
BIRMINGHAM } Leave Scapa 0110 for Rosyth (AC.O.S. 0005/30)

Nore — Dispositions for night 30/31. (C. in C., Nore 0800/30)

NorthernPatrol
Trawlers — Cancel my 1027/23. Reliefs (F.O.C.N.P. 0947/30)

NorthernPatrol — My 1110/29 is postponed to conform with A.C.W.A's 1433/29 and 0143/30 (N.P.C. 0948/30 to Adty.)

Trawler A/S
Patrol — Patrol which has worked recently off Cape Wrath is to operate further to Westward off the Butt of Lewis (C. in C., H.F. 0950/30 to A.C.O.S)

A/P Patrols for
30/8 — (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1912/30 to Adty.)

LE TIGER — Area of Patrol. Amend R/V in my 1510/29 to 360° Butt of Lewis at 2000/30. (A.C.O.S. 1051/30 to LE TIGER)

Patrol S. — My 1300/26. Cancel Patrol S on 31/8. (C. in C., Nore 1059/30 to D.16)

Patrol T. — To be carried out by 21st D/F instead of by 16th D/F. (C. in C., Nore 1059/30 to D. 16.)

Northern Patrol — FORFAR, CARNARVON CASTLE, and CHESHIRE, escorted by ANTHONY and AMAZON R/V with LAURENTIC and MOOLTAN at 1000/31 in 55° 10' N., 5° 43' W., and thence as in my 1110/29 (N.P.C. 1138/30 to Adty.)
My 1110/29 and F.O.C.N.P's 1855/28, amend R/V for CIRCASSIA and Destroyers to read 1° 40' N., 18° 20' W., at 1800/2 (N.P.C. 1630/30 to Adty.)

DIANA — Approved for DIANA to pay off on 6/9 and re-commission with Canadian crew as H.M.C.S. MARGAREE (D.O.D. H. 1655/30 to C. in C., H.F.)

/CHEVREUIL....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.8.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements-Contd.

CHEVREUIL
CAPRICIEUSE } a.m. 1017/21. Subject to satisfactory completion of Trials, intend sail both ships to Tobermory p.m./4 to work up. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1707/30 to Adty.)

Dover — Patrols for night 30/31. (V.A.Dover 1732/30)

Northern Patrol — Request Fighter Protection for 5 A.M.C's escorted by ANTHONY and AMAZON at 55° 10' N., 5° 43' W., at 1000/31. Thence to position A. 55° 39' N., 7° W., and position B 55° 45' N., 10° 10' W., Speed 13½ knots. Code word RIVAL. (C. in C., W.A. 1853/30 to H.Q.F.C.)

BILSDEAN — Sailed 2230. (C. in C., W.A. 2335/30 to Adty.)

Operations

Iceland — Adty's 1305/20. (Escorts for Iceland Convoys) ST. ELSTAN, LORD LLOYD, AYRSHIRE and NORWICH CITY detailed for B.A.S. 3. (C. in C., W.A. 1013/30 to Adty.)

A/S Sweep off Hebrides — Cancel my 1415/30. On completion of present escort duties, TARTAR, BEDOUIN and ASHANTI complete with fuel at Port ZA and carry out A/S sweep near 100 fathoms line between Flannan Island and Sulisker. (F.O.C. D/F H.F. 1855/20 to Capt D.6.)

Submarines

H.50 — Patrol in Zone H.2. North of 53° 15' N., S.O. S/M's Harwich 0212/30 to H.50)

H.49 — Leaves Harwich 1530/30 for Zone H.2. south of 53° 15' N., (S.O. S/M's Harwich 1447/30)

Positions — For following 24 hours at 0600/31 in Area A. (V.A.S. 1557/30) In Area B. (V.A.S. 1558/30)

/Adty's 1833.....

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines-Contd.

Adty's 1833/7/7	Greenock Area (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1614/30 Portsmouth (C. in C., Portsmouth 1815/30)
FORTH and 2 S/M.F. to be based at Clyde	Your 1901/29. A separate and suitable ferry is most desirable for reasons given. (V.A.S. 1702/30 to Adty.)

E-Boats

Boulogne	At 1630/30, one E-Boat in harbour and one approaching harbour (P.I.U. 2345/30 to N.I.D.) At 1010/30 4 E-Boats 7000 yards S.S.W. of Cape Alprech proceeding S.S.W. (P.I.U. 1345/30 to N.I.D)
Lorient	A.M./30th 5 E-Boats off the Torpedo Boat Station (P.R.U. St Eval 1610/30 and 0425/30)
Texel	a.m./30th. One E-Boat at S.W. point of Texel. (Chatham H.C.H.Q. 0950/30)

British Air Activity

Zuider Zee	Aircraft attacked with M/G 6 or 7 small boats on N. side of Dam (Chatham H.C.H.Q. 0950/30)
Den Helder	Aircraft bombed ship in North of Basin. Result inknown (Chatham H.C.H.Q. 0950/30)
Portsmouth Balloon Barrage	Your 2007/24. These Vessels now in operation with Balloons installed. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1237/30 to Adty.)
S.A.I.(A) S.16 (A) S.16 (B)	Cancelled tonight owing to weather. (C. in C., Rosyth 1622/30)
Rosyth Area	Air searches for 31/8. (C. in C., Rosyth 2012/30)
St. Nazaire	Between 2245/29 and 0027/30, 12 Wellingtons attacked Oil Plant at St. Nazaire. Very large explosions heard and large fires started. (H.Q.B.C. 0314/31)

/Enemy Air.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.8.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity

Pembroke Dock	One aircraft dropped 2 incendiary Bombs in water near Car Jetty at 0140/30. No damage or casualties. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1251/30)
Convoy FANDANGO (W.N. 12)	Attacked by aircraft 10 miles S.E. of Duncansby. (FANDANGO 2143/30) 33 MARSTENEN sunk by torpedo bomb. Survivors picked up by CATTISTOCK and 1 ship of Convoy (FANDANGO 1230/31 to Adty)
Pevensey	Port War Signal Station reports several vivid flashes and loud explosions near Pevensey. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 2218/30 to C. in C., Portsmouth)
MARSTENEN	Norwegian, 1832 tons. Torpedoed by aircraft at 0038° 25 miles from 58° N., 3° W., Wreckage dangerous to navigation (CATTISTOCK 2237/30 to C. in C., Rosyth) Request you sail tug BRIGAND to tow in MARSTENEN (A.C.O.S. 0821/31 to N.O.I.C. Kirkwall) BRIGAND sailed. (N.O.I.C., Kirkwall 0920/31 to Adty.)

Mining

Blyth	Closed until sweep completed about 1700. (NOIC Blyth 0103/30 to Adty) Port Open. (NOIC Blyth 1513/30 to Adty.)
S.N. 14.	10' E. of Wick course 010° (N.L.O. Wick 0700 to D.30)
C.B.X.5.	Intend 20th D.F. less IMPULSIVE to pass Humber L.V. at 1640/31. lay at 0100/1. complete at 0130/1 and return same route to Humber. Request Air Escort (D.20 1122/30 to C. in C., Nore) 5 Blenheims will escort (C. in C., Nore 1546/ to D.20)
Dover Mine Barrage	It is desired to strengthen Dover mine barrage during forthcoming dark night period and understand 20th D.F. could be made available.

/Indications.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.8.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

Dover, Mine Barrage, Contd.

Indications that Channel between Outer Ruytingen and West Dyck Banks is being swept, and it may be enemy's intention to attempt use of Dover Harbour for his transports, and to cross the Channel by taking departure for Dover from a position 260 degs., Calais 6 miles or from Calais No 1 Buoy. To counter this it is proposed that two lines of surface mines should be laid.
(A) From position 121 degs South Goodwin Light Vessel 2.2 miles in a direction 192 degs 4 miles.
(B) From position 140 degs. South Goodwin Light Vessel 8.2 miles in a direction 192 degs. 4 miles.
Proposed that laying should be carried out as soon as possible after 2/9.
(V.A.Dover 1237/30 to Adty.)

M.S/A.B.

Has been laid from 120° S.E. Languard Beacon 6000 feet extending 3 miles in direction 039° (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1540/30 to C. in C., Nore)

Newlyn

At 1016/30 one Red Mine exploded 086° Newlyn Pier 3.5 cables; and at 1039/30 another at 072° Newlyn Pier 10 cables. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1614/30 to C. in C., W.A.)

SN.17.

Request Fighter protection for SOUTHERN PRINCE and 2 other ships from 1330/2 to 1900/2 Cape Wrath to Duncansby Head, from 0600/4 to 1330/4 58° 17' N., 2° 22' W. to Cape Wrath. (C. in C., Rosyth 1616/30 to H.Q.F.C.)

Paddle Minesweepers

Request Fighter protection from 0900 till 1700/1 for 2 Paddle Minesweepers within 3 miles radius of 55° 58' N., 1° 51' W., (C. in C., Rosyth 1344/30 to H.Q.F.C.)

North Sea

At 0555/30 when about 15 miles N. of Brown Ridge S/M H.44 fouled and cut a Sperical Mine; and at 0730/30 passed between 2 moored mines 4 feet beloe surface and about 50 feet apart. (V.A.S. 1726/31 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.8.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Texel	No shipping in Straits between Helder and Texel or in Zuider Zee North of the Dam. 3 ships Northerly of Helder, under 1000 tons. (Chatham H.C.H.Q. 0950/30)
Limuiden	At 1200/30 no shipping activity. Block ship across Harbour entrance is progressively breaking up (P.I.U. 1744/30)
Lorient	a.m./30th. A Cruiser moored off mouth of river, but 3 auxiliary Naval vessels no longer seen. (P.R.U. St Eval 0425/30)
French Fishing Boats	At 1259/30 in 49° 8' N., 12° 2' W., aircraft sighted 16 French Fishing Boats (A.C.H.Q. Plymouth 2123/30 to Adty.)
Boulogne	At 1630/30, one steam torpedo boat. (P.I.U. 2345/30(
Calais	))
North Sea	At 0905/30 in 55° 30' N., 5° 31' E., 4 Danish fishing smacks, 3 with W/T Aerials in formation. (Denibristle 1210/30 to Adty.)
French Hospital Ships	Aircraft reports two 5000 ton French Hospital ships at 1230/30 in 49° 11' N 10° 30' W., steering 355° at 9 knots (C. in C., W.A. 1401/30 to ships) It has been confirmed that these Hospital ships are proceeding to Clyde. (C. in C. W.A. 1547/30 to ships) (A.C.H.Q. Plymouth 2123/30 to Adty.)
Nantes	11 M/V's (P.R.U. St Eval 1610/30)
St. Nazaire	2 large M/V's lying off Harbour and 10 inside Harbour. (P.R.U. St Eval 1610/30
Main German Units	No change (D.D.I.C. 1654/30)

/Zeebrugge.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.8.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence-Contd

Zeebrugge — At 0055/30, 3 miles N.W. of Zeebrugge one stationary vessel about 500 tons. (H.Q.B.C. 0214/31)

Convoys — At 1205/30 in 52° 43' N., 4° 30' E., 9 medium sized M/V's steaming south down the coast. (H.Q.B.C. 0214/31) At 1225/30 in 52° 12' N., 4° 15' E., 5 medium sized M/V's steering south (H.Q.B.C. 0214/31)

Dortmund-Ems Canal — Photographs on 30/8 show 52 barges in 2½ miles of Canal round Eastern outskirts of harbour near town. Barges 200 to 250 feet long. (H.Q.B.C. 1945/31)

Helder — 7 M/V's 150 feet at anchor between Texel and Den Helder. Photographs on 30/8. (H.Q.B.C. 1945/31)

Lorner — At 53° 51' N., 5° 43' E., about 21 barges 180 to 200 feet, 140 Barges 50 to 80 feet and 50 small fishing vessels. Photographs on 30/8. (H.Q.B.C. 1945/31)

SCHARNHORST — Bows seen at S.W. Corner of Floating Dock at Kiel on 30/8 (H.Q.B.C. 1945/31)

Cuxhaven — 4 T/B's and 50 small craft 150 feet long apparently self propelled. One 370 ft. M/V at deep water Quay and another same size in Amerika Hafen. (P.I.U. 0645/31 to N.I.D.)

TIRPITZ and HIPPER Cruiser — In Bauhafen at Wilhelmshaven (P.I.U. 0615/31)

Wilhelmshaven — In T.B. Harbour 3 T/B's. In Hipperhaven 2 Destroyers.
In Scheerhafen 2 S/M's.
I Fitting out Harbour one BRUMMER type minelayer. No warship lying off Harbour (P.I.U. 0615/31)

Miscellaneous

WESTERNLAND — General de Gaulle and Staff arrived Riverside station 1647/30 to embark in WESTERNLAND (D.O.D. H. 1039/30 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.8.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping
S.L. 43	Arrived (D.S. 361)
S.L.A. 43	KASHMIR and KIPLING to join escort. (R.A.D., H.F., 0255/30)
H.X. 66 A.	Position. WOLVERINE and VOLUNTEER to join escort (R.A.D. H.F. 0300/30) W.N. 11 and H.X. 66 A. reported by enemy aircraft at 2245 (C. in C., Rosyth 2336/40)
Iceland	Your 1915/29 and Admty 1222/29. Arrangements confirmed. These ships to form part of a convoy for Iceland. (D.O.D. (H) 1145/30)
O.A. 205.	To alter course 3 points after dark. (C. in C., W.A. 1710/30)
O.B. 205.	To alter course 3 points after dark. (C. in C., W.A. 1700/30)
B.A.S. 3.	Admty. 1305/30. Escort trawlers for Iceland Convoy. (C. in C., W.A. 1013/30, 1557/30)
H.X. 70.	EMERALD to escort to about 24° W., (C. in C., A&W.I., 1232/30)
O.A. 209	Route (C. in C., W.A. 1730/30)
H.X. 69	Escort from O.A. 209 to meet (C. in C., W.A. 1730/30) Amended (no T.O.O./30)
O.E. 207	Route (C. in C., W.A. 1740/30.)
S.C. 2.	Escort from O.B. 208 to meet (C. in C., W.A. 1740/30)
O.B.M. 206.	Escort and numbers (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1745/30)
H.X. 67.	Orders to escort (C. in C., W.A. 1350/30) RESTIGOUCHE to meet (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 0756/31)
F.S. & F.N.	Forecast of sailings and escorts (C. in C., Rosyth 1110/30, 1754/30)
8. M.V's	Group of 8, code word "Cadet" pass needles to Dartmouth, escorted by SALADIN and STURDY (C. in C., Portsmouth 1241/30)

/H.G. 43.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.8.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping-Contd.

H.G. 43. Route, positions. (F.O.C.N.A., 0922/30)

H.X. 69. Positions. ALAUNIA to return Halifax. (D.T.D., 1344/30)

C.W. 10. Leaves Southen 1200/30. (C. in C., Nore 1040/30)

S.H.X. 70. Advance sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B. 1038/29)

C.E. 10. Revised time table (C. in C., Nore 2224/30)

DUCHESS OF RICHMOND
WARWICK CASTLE } Routes. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1230/30)

LADY OF MAN
MEN-BY-CHURE } For Lerwick / For Kirkwall } Requesting escort. 900 personnel in each case. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1707/30)

SPHINX
CANADA } French Hospital ships SPHINX and CANADA sighted 1445/30 position 49.33N., 10.32W., course 355° 9 knots are routed 10 miles from Skellie 30 miles from Black Rock 10 miles from Tory Island thence by St. Brides Bay Route to Clyde and are not to be molested. (15 group 1620/30)

Your 1547/30, request you will arrange for French Hospital Ships SPHINX and CANADA to be routed from the Clyde to arrive Liverpool as early as possible for loading. (D.O.D. (H) 1913/30 to C. in C., W.A.)

Norwegian Ships — No small arms on board. (See TRONDHEIM South Atlantic)

Convoy Escort Orders — Cancelling his 1054/29, and paras 1 and 2 of Western Approaches Command, Instructions, Section C, substituting new regulations re position of escorts in a convoy. (C. in C., W.A. 1759/30)

1

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.8.1940.
Friday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

WITCH	Owing to further Engine defects will be out of action at least 96 hours from 1200/30. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1050/30 to C. in C., W.A.)
WALLACE	Has damaged her port propeller. Request she may be docked at earliest opportunity. (Capt. D.Ref 1758/30 to AS)
WESTBURY	Reported overdue 27/8) Cancel my 0604/ 27. (C. in C., East Indies 1106/Z/30 to Adty.)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

30.8.40.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace".

Convoy M.P. Intend sailing Liverpool portion of M.P. escorted by HAVELOCK, HIGHLANDER and HURRICANE 1030/31 to R.V. with BELGRAVIAN (position) and with DEVONSHIRE and HARVESTER (position) thence to Position C. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1105/30).

Intend sailing convoy MP escorted by FIJI, WOLVERINE, VOLUNTEER, ANTELOPE, AMBUSCADE in accordancewith C. in C., W.A. 1909/24 at noon tomorrow Saturday. (A.C.O.S. 1949/30).

West Africa Request any signals concerning situation be repeated to F.O.C. Force M. (V.C.N.S. 1713/30).

North Atlantic

Raider CYMBELINE (British tanker, 6317 tons). 33.40 N., 21.10 W. followed by suspicious vessel 0903/30. (CYMBELINE, 1238/30).

Operation "Hats" Gibraltar departure 0950/30 . Forces B,F, W, in accordance with S.O. Force H's 1526/23. (S.O.I., Gib. 1106/30).

Free Frenchmen Inquiry re volunteers to join de Gaulle. (Gov., Gib., 2150/30).

South Atlantic

SUMATRA (Dutch Cruiser) Consul, Lobito, reports arrival and departure 28/8. Date of arrival Capetown. (S.O.I., Freetown, 1041/30).

Duala, Mining. De Gaulle representative requests pass following to General De Gaulle:- General de Gaulle from Boislambert. Deem it is essential and urgent you obtain from Adty. minelayers to protect entrance Cameroons River. Am taking all necessary steps to strengthen coastal defences, both passive and active. Fast submarine chasers extremely useful both for defence and liaison. Have not yet received any acknowledgement of our telegram explaining how operation was carried out. LECLERC has left for Yaonde to take possession. Boislambert. (BRIDGEWATER, 1045/30).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

30.8.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic (Contd.)

MALOJA — Sails for Freetown 1800/31. Route. (N.P.C., 1500/30 amended 1114/31).

S/m Report — Off Cape Verde Is. (C. in C., S.A., 1652/30). See U-Boat Campaign.

TRONDHEIM — Norwegian tanker. Master points out no Norwegian ships have small arms on board, fears his ship is at mercy of any armed enemy agent. (N.A., Rio de Janeiro, 1714/30).

Convoy WS.2A. — SHROPSHIRE and convoy WS.2A sailed from Capetown (end of searched channel) at 1800/30. Dates of arrival. (N.C.I.C., Simonstown, 1803Z/30). Sailing telegram, route etc. (N.C.I.C., Simonstown, 2345/30).

BULOLO — Patrol orders, to cover CABLE ENTERPRISE and WELLFIELD. (C. in C., S.A., 2130/30).

Mediterranean

Malta Defences — My 1830/25. Decisions of Chiefs of Staff Committee. (D. of L.D. 1758/30 - see Med. Volume).

Greece and Turkey — Military information re Italian concentration in Albania. Question of Turkish loan of equipment to Greece. (British Minister, Athens, 1836/20 see Med. Vol.)

WRYNECK — When ready, to join Med. Fleet. (D.O.D.(H) 1942/30).

Troop Convoys — Dates for acceptance of Niblick Force, W.S.2. and US.4 (C. in C., M.E. to W.O., 0707/30).

FLORA NOMICOS — Greek. Arrived Galatz 27/8 with manganese ore consigned Budapest State Railway but actually for Germany. (S.O.I., Alexandria, 1139/30).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

30.8.40.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Air

Malta — Re additional landing grounds. (H.Q., Malta 0930/30). See Med. Vol.

East Indies

French Ports — My 1122/27. British and Allied ships may now be sailed for French ports in India only. (C. in C., E.I., 06342/30).

Overdue Ships — Cancel my 0604/27 (WESTBURY overdue). (C. in C., E.I., 11062/30).

Middle East Liaison — Adty. 2140/13. No suitable officer for permanent attachment to M.E., but am sending staff officer by air to discuss. (C. in C. E.I., 1236/29). C. in C., Med., 1839/29. Concur senior naval representative on a harbour defence planning staff and assisted by at least one p.s.c. officer. Further observations. (C. in C., E.I., 20102/30).

Mauritius — Your 1330/28. Majority appreciate reason for stoppage. Resentment felt by small minority only, not on racial account but fear of loss of trade to competitors. Recent stoppage agreeable K P M now removed this objection. Full understanding anticipated. (N.O.I.C. Mauritius, 11382/30, C. in C., E.I.)

Troop Transport — Your 1244/27 to C. in C., M.E. NIBLICK 2 consisting of 4 personnel ships and 1 mechanical transport ship will sail in BN.5 (date) for Suez, KAROA personnel JALAGANGA M.T. ship, for Port Sudan; TALMA personnel, SANTHIA personnel AKBAR personnel. Regretted AKBAR included in this convoy but no other suitable ship available. NIBLICK 3 consisting of 12 personnel ships and 6 M.T. ships will sail in BN.6 (date); for Suez, 6 personnel and 3 M.T. ships; for Port Sudan, 6 personnel and 3 M.T. ships. (P.S.T.O., E.I., to C. in C., E.I., 10002/30)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

30.8.40.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

Indo-China, Shipping. For Governor General at Hanoi. Please ask Governor General whether in view of it being clearly in our mutual interests that normal trading should be resumed in Far East he will give assurance that British and allied shipping will not in future be detained or interfered with in French - Indo China ports. On receipt of this assurance from him and from Admiral Terraux I am prepared to give a similar assurance as egards French shipping visiting Hong Kong and Singapore so that normal trade on China Station may be resumed. (China, C. in C., 0325Z/30 to V. Consul, Haiphong).

America and West Indies

HX. Convoy Escorts. F.O.C., 3 B.S. 1451/29, ocean escort instructions for HX convoy. Concur. (C. in C., W.A., 2030/30).

U.S. Destroyers Asking if any selected for transfer will be fitted with s/m detector comparable with our Asdic. (D.N.I. to N.A., Washington, 1335/30). Reply. (N.A., Washington, 1631/30).

Australia

A/c Equipment Your 1255/23. Not at present possible to fit these weapons to Hudson Aircraft. Little experience to date from Sunderland aircraft is promising. (A.C.N.B., 1550/30).

"N" Class Destroyers Your 1212/28 re manning of "N" class destroyers by R.A.N. Regret no suitable R.A.N. Captain with destroyer experience is available. Suggest Captain H.H. Waller be considered. (A.N.B. 1010Z/30 to C. in C. Med. & Adty.)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

30.8.40.
FriAmv.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

LARISSA	Arrived from Poi with about 3000 tons manganese ore for Germany. (Galatz, 1549/30).
ANTARKTIS	Loaded coffee consigned Hamburg, likely to sail. (Consul, Vigo, 1910/30).
MELILLA	At Gijon. My 1858/16/2. Has discharged wool and hides and returned to moorings (Consul Vigo, 1910/30).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

CLIZIA	Tanker. No change, has full load. (Consul, Vigo, 1910/30).
PORTOFINO	Left Fiume 30/8. (Vice Consul, Susak, 1100/30).
ALBERTO FASSIO	Tanker. Left Fiume 30/8. (Vice Consul, Susak, 1100/30).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

30.8.40.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

Convoy HX.66A, NORNE, CHELSEA, MILL HILL

3 ships torpedoed in position 58.48 N., 6.49 W. (JASON, 0136/30). Were in homeward bound convoy HX.66A, torpedoed 35' N.N.W. of Butt of Lewis. 2 destroyers sent to assist JASON and HIBISCUS the convoy escort. (D.O.R. 30/8). JASON's 0136. Request you sail tug SUPERMAN to assistance and direct tug THAMES to this position. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 0230/30, A.C.O.S. 0325/30). SUPERMAN sailing and THAMES diverted to comply. (M.O.I.C., Stornoway, 0504/30). Have directed THAMES and SUPERMAN to return Stornoway. No sign of torpedoed ship. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1701/30). Ships identified as Norwegian NORNE, 3971 tons, from New York with scrap iron; British CHELSEA, 4804 tons, from Montreal with grain; and MILL HILL, for the Tees with steel and pig iron. NORNE sunk, others still afloat pm/30 (D.S. 361). HIBISCUS has 11 survivors from NORNE. (JASON, 0202/31).

VOLENDAM

Dutch 15,434 tons. Torpedoed 56.05 N., 9.50 W W. 2200 G.M.T. (Rosyth W/T, 2339/30, VOLENDAM via Port Patrick Radio, 2340/30). SALVONIA and ENGLISHMAN to proceed. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2346/30). SABRE, SCIMITAR and WANDERER to attack U/B. (C. in C., W.A., 2347/30). Was Commodore's ship in convoy OB.205, outward bound Liverpool to New York with passengers including 270 children. WARWICK standing by. (D.S. 361). Still afloat, require tugs. (WARWICK, 0305/31). With Commodore and 70 persons still afloat, SALVONIA in company with BASSETHOUND, OLAF FOSTENESS, and VALLDEMOSA left for Clyde with survivors unescorted. (WARWICK, 0730/31). Details of attack (WARWICK, 0800/31). Am escorting VOLENDAM in tow stern first of tug SALVONIA. She is using own engines. Estimated position course and speed 56° 10' N 9°34' W. 105° 5 knots. Left SANGABRIEL still afloat. Shall not be at R.V. with HX.67. (WARWICK, 1300/31).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.8.1940.
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

EVA — (Torpedoed 27/8) 17 survivors landed by own boats at Beligarry, Isle of Barra. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1434/30)

HARTISMERE — (Torpedoed 28/8) Description of damage (GLEANER, 1715/30)

Open boat with 4 men position 58.07 N., 00.05 E., heading west. (Aircraft 224 Sqdn. 1738/30) KASHMIRE and KIPLING to proceed position (F.O.C. (B) H.F., 1843/30)

Submarines Reported

0750 — D.F., unknown unit probable U-Boat 59.10 N., 8° W., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 0825/30)

1037 — SABRE to continue searching area U-Boat was attacked and probably seriously damaged 56.50 N., 9.53 W., at 1233/29 (C. in C., W.A., 1037/30)

2330 — A.F. message 56.05 N., 9.50 W., at 2200/30 G.M.T. (D.C., 0024/31)

2337 — D.F. unknown enemy unit probable U-Boat in vicinity of Lands End, possibly in Mounts Bay. (D.D.I.C., 0015/31)

2210 — 56.10 N., 9.30 W., position indefinite. (D.S. 361)

2220 — 56.11 N., 9.50 W., reported by aircraft (D.S. 361)

1630 — 57.20 N., 7.06 W., in Little Minch, unreliable (D.S. 361) (C. in C., W.A., 0713/31)

2015 — 50.05 N., 5.31 W., 4' S. of Penzance. P/S, conning tower and wake reported by L.D.V., course N.E. (B.1.) (D.S.361)

2337 — Near Lands End or possibly in Mounts Bay. Position indefinite. (D.S., 361)

/South Atlantic.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.8.1940.
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported-Contd.

South Atlantic

British Consul, St. Vincent, Cape Verde reports submarine reported sighted 1 mile south of Santiago, Cape Verde Is. 29/8. (C. in C., S.A., 1652/30)(Consul St. Vincent, 1115/30)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

1 Italian or German was in 37° 10' N., 21° 50' W., p.m./26th.

German 1 in about 52° 30' N., 15° W., at 1947/29 may be moving northwards.

1 may still be far out in Atlantic.

3 in N.W. Approaches of which 1 was in 56° N., 12° 59' W., at 2330/29, another in 56° 50' N., 9° 53' W., at 1233/29 and the third is probably within 90' of Bloody Foreland.

1 in 58° 48' N., 6° 49' W., at 0136/30.

1 was in about 59° N., 11° W at 1121/29 homeward bound. This is believed to be the U-Boat mentioned in my 1233/25 as possibly bound for Halifax area.

Possibly 1 in 60° 29' N., 1° 08' E., at 0710/30 possibly outward bound.

(D.D.I.C. 1414/30) (V.A.S., 1722/30)

Submarines Attacked

0710 By aircraft submerged submarine position 60.29 N., 1.08 E., (aircraft 248 Sqdn., 0720/30) Bombs dropped 15/20 yards ahead, result unknown (Donibristle 0855/30)

Submarines Reported

Mediterrenean & East Indies

Group reports sighting definitely submarine oil tract in North East Section Patrol Area in approximate position 037° 00' N., 018° 30' E., at 1600/25. May be oil leak from PARTHIAN or REGENT.
(F.O.I.C. Malta 1501/30)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

31.8.40.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

About 9.30 p.m. a patrol aircraft reported a large number of Enemy vessels about 15 miles North of Terschelling steering W. at 15 knots. At 10 p.m. orders were given for all ships to raise steam on the East and South coasts; special dispositions of destroyers were made from Rosyth and the Nore; and the 20th Destroyer Flotilla proceeding to lay mines off the Dutch coast were ordered at 11.15 p.m. to jettison their mines and attack the enemy. No enemy force having been located by daylight on the 1st all ships were ordered to revert to their normal positions and duties; but shortly after midnight on the 1st IVANHOE, EXPRESS and ESK were mined, ESK being sunk and IVONHOE having later to be sunk by a torpedo from KELVIN.

Oil-tanks at Cherbourg were bombed early this morning and large fires started. At Dover the Balloon Barrage was attacked twice today, all its 23 Balloons being shot down in the first attack and 12 Balloons out of 22 being destroyed in the second.

Eastbourne was shelled during the afternoon by what appeared to be shells of about 4 inch calibre and a Balloon was seen on the horizon during the bombardment.

The Dutch M/V MARNE, 175 tons, was mined and sunk off the North Tyne Pier Light at 11.45 a.m. and the cause of her loss is being investigated.

Foreign Stations

Cameroons

Trade with ports in French Equatorial Affica and the French Cameroons may now be resumed.

A delayed message from the British Vice-Consul, Duala timed 1416/27 states that code telegrams may again be despatched and received. They should be routed via Lagos and Buea. This route includes short wave radio link, but avoids passing via Dalomey.

MOST SECRET

31.8.40.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT

Foreign Stations (Contd.)

Mediterranean Spanish seaplanes from Majorca having searched the Western Basin on behalf of Italy when H.M. ships have been known to be at sea, any Spanish aircraft sighted in the vicinity of Force H. are to be engaged unless there is good reason to believe they are on normal air routes.

Operation "Hats" Capt. D.14 reported at 1715/31 that stores ship CORNWALL's steering gear had been destroyed in an air attack and that she was steering by main engines. This has reduced the speed of the convoy, proceeding to Malta, and has consequently delayed Force I, which now expects to RV with Force F about 0900/2.

U.S. Bases Broad agreement has now been reached with the U.S.A. about bases, and the U.S. Govt. ar sending a cruiser to Bermuda with experts. Arrangements are going forward in anticipatio of early approval for the transfer of destroyers.

U-Boat Campaign

Two ships in convoy OB.205, British ANADARA and Greek SAN GABRIEL were torpedoed am/31, in the N.W. Approaches. Another, the Belgian VILLE DE HASSELT, bound independently New York to Glasgow, was also torpedoed.

The torpedoing of the British EMPIRE MOOSE and Swedish ALIDA GORTHORN on 29/8, was reported after survivors had landed in Iceland. They were in convoy OA.204, which had scattered after a previous attack, in which the ASTRA II, HARTISMERE and DALBLAIR were sunk.

War Diary

MOST SECRET

31.3.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Shetlands

Request suspension of War Office order for immediate return of 300 ·303 Rifles issued to local Home Guard. (F.O.C.S. 0902/31 to Adty). Request your remarks on F.O.C.S.'s 1908/30 as to manning of 4" guns. (D. of L.D. 2026/31 to W.O.). Your 0902. Rifles will not be taken away until American ones are issued in lieu. (1st S.L. 2241/31 to F.O.C.S.).

Scilly Islands Re-inforcement

Confbrming decision to increase Garrison from one company to one Battalion and to send 2 Bofors Guns, arrangements are being made to erect a mobile R.D.F. station linked to No.10 group O. (Air Min. 1220/31 to Fighter Command).

Shelling of Eastbourne

B.O.P. have observed explosion at 1739/31, 100° Eastbourne B.O.P. 2700 yards and another in middle of town. Believed shell burst. Beachy Head Coast Observer Corps. reports explosion in sea 5 miles to Southward at 1741/31. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 1750/31 to C. in C. Portsmouth). Battery Commander Eastbourne reports shells, one in town, one in sea, two on hill behind Beachy Head. Believed about 4". Balloon seen on horizon. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1855/31 to Adty.).

Large number of Enemy vessels bearing 270° distant one mile position 53°35' N. 5° E. steering 270° at 15 knots. (Aircraft P.206 Sqdn. 2112 and 2129/31). Enemy vessels bearing 270° distant 1 mile position 53°30' N. 4°26' E., speed unknown. (Aircraft P.206 Sqdn. 2140 and 2150/31 to Bircham Newton). Have lost touch with enemy. (Aircraft P.206 Sqdn. 2200/31).

All ships are to raise steam. (D.O.D.H. 2200/31 to Cs-in-C.). Endeavour to locate and make night attack. (C. in C., Nore, 2211/31 to Capt. D.5). Largest 6000 to 9000 tons approx. (Aircraft P.206 Sqdn. 2215/31 to 16(R) Group H.Q.) Raise steam. Report when ready to proceed. (C. in C., Rosyth, 2227/31 to VERSATILE, VIMY). After laying, endeavour to locate enemy force and make night attack. Do not be too far East at daylight. (C. in C., Nore, 2231/31 to Capt. D.20). Request you detach EGRET and

WINCHESTER.....

MOST SECRET

31.8.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K. (Contd.)

WINCHESTER should R.V. with C.S.2 and EGRET should proceed South at full speed to R.V. with LONDONDERRY at Sheringham Light Float about 0600 (C. in C., Nore, 2254/31 to C. in C. Rosyth). Jettison mines immediately with supernumerary pins in and attack enemy. (C. in C., Nore 2313/31 to Capt. D.20). Ready to proceed at 2315. (VERSATILE 2310/31 to C. in C., Rosyth).

Please order VIMIERA, VANITY and VEGA to proceed South along swept channel with despatch and with all despatch after daylight. They will deal with invasion as necessary and will R.V. with C.S.18, C.S.2 or other British forces when met. Enemy may reach coast by 0500. (C. in C., Nore, 2340/31 to C. in C., Rosyth).

VEGA take VIMIERA and VANITY under his orders and proceed South along convoy route with despatch and after daylight with all despatch. Ships report when ready to proceed. (C. in C., Rosyth, 2345/31).

See also Movements, and Enemy Intelligence.

Policy

Fighting Instructions

A.L.M/M/S 0506/40 of 27/8 enclosing fighting instructions dated 31st July. Para. 6 of instructions is contrary to orders I have issued in my command where striking forces will be sent to scenes of action. Steaming of all patrols to position of gunfire which might be an E-boat engagement would denude my patrol lines over a length of perhaps 60 miles at a time when watch is most necessary. I am therefore issuing these instructions with para. 6 deleted. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1503/31 to Adty.)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

31.8.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Policy (Contd.)

N.W. Approaches Destroyer Force

To reinforce destroyer force available in the N.W. Approaches it has been approved that Royal Canadian Navy destroyers now employed on convoys OA are to be relieved by 3 sloops of Rosyth Escort Force.

This will afford some additional A/A protection to convoys round N. of Scotland.

The reduction of convoy escorts on East Coast must be accepted for present.

C. in C., Rosyth requested arrange for transfer of the 3 sloops, SKEENA and ST. LAURENT, as soon as possible, consulting with C. in C. W.A. as necessary.

Adty. will take action on OTTAWA and MARGAREE. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1520/31 to C. in C. W.A.).

French Warships

Your 1730/30. Arrangements are being made for transfer of TRIOMPHANT and POULMIC on 2/9. British crews will vacate ships by 1200. Details of transfer to be arranged on arrival of Capitaine de Fregate WIETZEL.

Tug ABEILLE 11 is not at Plymouth and her position is unknown RUISSEAU is en route to Hull to refit. (C. in C. W.A. 1532/31 to A.C. Free French N.F.)

VIKING

French trawler. Propose she join sloop minesweepers CHEVREUIL and CAPRICIEUSE at Tobermory to work up. (F.O.C. 1st C.S. 0938/31 to Adty.)

Londonderry

Propose to transfer M.L. and M.A/S.B. bases to Londonderry forthwith. (Capt. S/F 1620/31 to C. in C., W.A.) (D.A/S.W. 1718/31 to C's in C.).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

31.8.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Northern Patrol	Sailed CARNARVON CASTLE, CHESHIRE, and FORFAR, escorted by ANTHONY and AMAZON as by N.P.C's 1138/30. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0511/31 to Adty.).
D.6	Departure Port ZA. at 0630/31, D.6 in TARTAR, BEDOUIN, ASHANTI as by R.A.D's 1855/30. (TRELAWNEY 0921/31 to Adty.)
Nore Command	Day patrols and movements to 1200/1. (C. in C., Nore 1200/31).
Harwich	A/P patrols 31/8. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1201/31 to Adty.)
SALADIN, STURDY	Intend to sail at 2015, expect arrive Nab 0600/1. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1205/31).
ZULU, SIKH, PUNJABI	If not in contact at dusk tonight, return to Scapa. (R.A.D.H.F. 1411/31 to ZULU).
Dover	Patrols for night 31/1 (V.A. Dover 1516/31).
Portsmouth	Movements for night 31/1. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1537/31).
Orkneys	Movements for night 31/1. (A.C.O.S. 1537/31). State of A/S trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1930/31).
SOMALI	Intend sailing for Scapa 1500/1. Speed 18 knots. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1600/31 to Adty.)
DEVONSHIRE	My 2148/25/7. Request you sail a cruiser to relieve DEVONSHIRE at Clyde (A.C.N.S.H. 1632/31 to C. in C., H.F.). Sailed C.S.1 in DEVONSHIRE with HARVESTER, COMMANDANT DUBOC, and COMMANDANT DOMINIE to R.V. as in F.O.I.C. Liverpool's 1105/30. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2015/31 to Adty.)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

31.8.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements (Contd.)

DOUGLAS — Subject to satisfactory completion of trials, intend to sail for Scapa on 4/9. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1723/31 to Adty.)

AUSTRALIA NORFOLK — Proceed to Greenock through Minches. Be available at Clyde to cover Approaches to Ireland. (C. in C., H.F. 1847/31 to AUSTRALIA). AUSTRALIA sailed 2100/31 Request A/S air escort from daylight 1st Sept. (C. in C., H.F., 2117/31 to C. in C., W.A.)

Patrol O — VETERAN and WORCESTER to R.V. with D.16 at Aldeburgh Light Float at 0200/1 and continue on Patrol O till further orders (C. in C., Nore 2245/31 to F.O.I.C. Harwich). Join Capt. D.16 at Aldeburgh L.F. at 0200/1. VETERAN, WORCESTER, and WIVERN also join there from Harwich (C. in C., Nore, 2303/31 to WOLFHOUND).

Patrol K. — After concentrating take up patrol K. (C. in C., Nore, 2349/31 to Capt. D.16).

BROKE, VANSITTART, NEWCASTLE — R/V at 0600/1 at 140° Bishops Rock 7 miles. (C. in C., W.A., 2313/31).

WINCHESTER — Request you sail WINCHESTER to join C.S.2 (1st S.L. 2320/31 to C. in C., Rosyth).

C.S.2 — With JACKAL is to collect VIVIEN and WINCHESTER at Sheringham L/F at 0500 or soon after. (C. in C., Nore, 2325/31 to C.S.2).

Operations

Convoy MP. (R.M. Brigade) — Sailed Liverpool Section escorted by HAVELOCK and HIGHLANDER. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1015/31 to Adty.)

Iceland — Sailing of MANCHESTER CITY postponed for adjustment of D.G. coils. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1531/31 to A.C.O.S.).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

31.8.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines

Adty's 1833/7/7 Submarine L.23 will be exercising in Area B. on 1/9. (A.C.O.S. 1237/31 to Adty.) Western Approaches Movements. (C. in C., W.A., 1655/31 to Adty.). Greenock Area Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1830/31 to Adty.). Portsmouth Movements (C. in C., Portsmouth 1831/31 to Adty.)

Positions For following 24 hours at 0600/1 in area A. (V.A.S. 1656/31). In Area B. (V.A.S. 1657/31).

TRITON, TETRARCH S.2 is to sail TRITON and TETRARCH on 4/9 from Rosyth through Irish Sea for Gibraltar. Route as in my 1302/28. Expect arrive position K at 0800/11. (V.A.S. 2356/31 to S.2).

PORPOISE, TAKU Intend sailing ROSEMARY escorting PORPOISE and TAKU from Rothesay at 0500/2 to arrive at 50° N. 7° W. at 2200/3. Speed 11 knots. ROSEMARY then to Milford Haven. PORPOISE and TAKU as in F.O.S. 1439/29. (Capt.S.7th S/F. 1341/31 to V.A.S.)

E-boats

Amsterdam At 0025/31 two craft believed E-boats at Quay to East of Town and West of Schellingwoude. (H.Q.B.C. 1945/31).

Channel There is indication of E-boat activity in channel tonight. (C. in C., W.A. 2021/31 to BROKE).

Brest 2 E-boats exercising in the Rade. (PRU. St. Eval, 1900/31).

British Air Activity

Hamburg Docks Between 2220/30 and 0220/31 four Whitleys bombed the Hamburg Docks, scoring direct hits and causing 5 large fires. (H.Q.B.C. 1945/31).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

31.8.1940.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity-Contd.

Dortmund-Ems Canal Aqueduct

Between 2325/30 and 0050/31 one Hampden attacked the Aqueduct. 6 bombs were dropped and 3 bursts seen, but results not observed. (H.Q.B.C., 1945/31)

Oil Tanks At Cherbourg

At 0442 and 0512/31 three aircraft bombed the Oil Tanks to the East of Cherbourg Harbour. Hits claimed and fires started. At 0447/31 also bombed Oil Tanks at Quonfam, near Cherbourg, starting fires visible 35 miles. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 0740/31)

W.1. and L.8.

My 2012/30. W.1. postponed until weather improved. L.8. will not take off until 0920 (C. in C., Rosyth 0836/31)

S.A. 1.A. S.16.A. S. 16. B.

Cancelled owing to weather (C. in C., Rosyth 1620 and 1640/31 to Adty.)

S.A. 2.

S.A. 2. Northern Half now in operation (C. in C., Rosyth 1658/31 to Adty.)

Rosyth Area

Air searches for 1/9. (C. in C., Rosyth 1816/31)

Enemy Air Activity

Beachy Head

At 0200/31, three white flares and loud explosions were observed 15 to 20 miles 135° from Beachy Head. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 0203/31 to Adty.)

St. Mervyn R.N.A.Station

6 unexploded bombs dropped on 27/8, three miles from Station. Believed 100 kilo bombs and now buried very deep. (St. Mervy n 1240/31 to R.A.N.A.S.)

Eastbourne

B.O.P. reports Eastbourne being bombed at 1747 (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 1755/31 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

/Dover Balloon Barrage.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

31.8.1940.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

Dover, Balloon Barrage

15 Balloons shot down by enemy (Balloon Command 1940/31 to Fighter Command) Barrage attacked twice today. In first attack all 23 balloons shot down and in second 12 balloons out of 22. Would be glad of some or all of four 3.7 guns and 8 Bofors recently withdrawn could now be replaced. (V.A.DOver 1951/31 to Adty.)

Newhaven

5 or 6 heavy bombs dropped some distance to W. of Newhaven (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 2355/31 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

Mining

C.B.X. 5.

D.20's 1122/30. VORTIGERN detailed. Proceed at 1945/31. (D.5. 0031/31 to VORTIGERN) 3 destroyers to facilitate return of 20th D.F. through gap. Report names. (C. in C., Nore 0934/31 to N.O.I.C. Humber) JUPITER and KELVIN will accompany VORTIGERN. I embark in JUPITER (D.5. 1920/31 to Adty.)

Berry Head

Reports several explosions to S.E. at 0500 (C. in C., W.A. 0506/31 to SALADIN)

Thames Estuary

Mid Barrow L/V reports several mines laid 300 yards N.E. of her. (LONDONDERRY 0720/31 to C. in C., Nore) Channel swept and mines detonated (C. in C., Nore 0809/31 to LONDONDERRY)

S.N. 17.

My 1616/30. Operation postponed (C. in C., Rosyth 1058/31 to H.Q.F.C.)

Q.Z.S. 117

Fast minesweepers are to sweep on night 1/2. Report arrangements. (C. in C., Nore 1019/31 to F.O.I.C. Harwich) 5 fast sweepers will leave Shipwash at 2300/1 and begin sweeping at S. end of Q.Z.S. 117 between 0200 and 0230/2. Request a light be shown there then. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1203/31 to C. in C., Nore)

/Tyne.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

31.8.1940.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

Tyne	Port closed (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1142/31 to Adty.) Harbour opened since sweeping this morning (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1229/31to C. in C., Rosyth) Tyne open (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1612/31 to Adty.)
MARINE	Dutch M/V 175 tons. Mined and sunk at 1126/31 at 106° 5 cables from North Tyne Pier Light. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1146/31 to C. in C., Rosyth) Investigation as to course is proceeding (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1229/31 to C. in C., Rosyth)
Q.Z.S. 111	Request Air Protection for 5 Oropesa sweepers in Q.Z.S. 111 and St Catherines Deep from 0630 to 1730 on 1/9 and 2/9. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1700/31 to H.Q.F.C.)
Dover, Mine Barrage	Your 1237/30. Would prefer shift line B 1½ miles to Southward and place line A to East of B near No 2 Buoy. Do you agree. (V.C.N.S. 1936/31 to V.A.Dover)
S.N.41	Propose to sail for S.N. 41 at 0830/3 and lay between 56° 25' N., 9° W., and 56° 2' N., 8° 33' W., starting at 2130/3 and ending 0015/4. (R.A.M.L. 22.2/41 and 0953/1 to C. in C. H.F.)
EXPRESS	Mined at 53° 25' N., 3° 48' E., AVANHOE and HSK standing by. Operation C.B.X. 5 cancelled. INTREPID and ICARUS returning to Humber (INTREPID 2359/31 to Adty.)

/Enemy Intelligence..

MOST SECRET

31.8.1940.
Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence.

French and Dutch Ports	Summary of Air R/C's (D.D.I.C. 1837/1)
5 Destroyers	At 1957/31 aircraft P.206 sighted 5 destroyers steering East at low speed in 53° 36' N., 1° 55' E., (Chatham Broadcast 0132/1)
10 Vessels	At 2110/31 in 53° 35' N., 5° E., aircraft sighted 10 vessels, one from 6000 to 9000 tons, steering west at 15 knots. (Chatham Broadcast 0132/1)
	Shipping
T.C. 7.	Destroyers to escort (R.A.D. 0005/31)
H.X. 66.	Arrived 1515/31 (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1516/31) (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1700/31)
H.X. 66. A.	Passed Kinnaird Head 0200 (JASON 0202/31)
Cadet	Arrived (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 0730/31) Sail Dartmouth 2000/31 for Falmouth (C. in C., W.A., 1600/31, 1609/31, 1610/31) Left. (C. in C., W.A., 2327/31)
H.X. 67	RESTIGOUCHE to meet LACONIA and H.X. 67 (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 0756/31) Insufficient fuel. WALKER and DUCHESS OF RICHMOND detached to R.V. (RESTIGOUCHE, 1031/31) BEDOUIN and ASHANTI to meet (F.O., D.F. 1400/31)
O.B. 205	After dark to alter course 30° to port. Further orders. (C. in C., W.A.1400/31)
	Clyde portion arrived (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 0945/31)
O.A. 206	After dark to alter course 40° to port, Further orders. (C. in C., W.A. 1400/31)
H.G. 42.	ARROW to meet (C. in C., W.A. 1343/31) orders to split (C. in C., W.A. 1740/31)
O.A. 205 and O.A. 206	St. ZENO and PAYNTER to shadow, and after dispersal to R.V. with H.X. 68. (C. in C., W.A., 1550/31) SHIKARI and SKATE to join O.A. 206. (C. in C., W.A. -1619/31) O.A. 206 to alter course 30° to port after dark. Further orders (C. in C., W.A. 1620/31)

/O.A.207.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

31.8.1940.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping-Contd.

O.A. 207	Sailed from Methil 1030 escorted St. LAURENT, GODETIA (C. in C., Rosyth, 1832/31) Escorts and numbers (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1204/31, 1205/31)
F.N. and F.S.	C. in C. Rosyth's 1110/30. List of escorts (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1823/31) Amended (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1827/31)
O.B.M. 207	Sailed 1914. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 2000/31)
E.N. 4.	SAN ZOTICO to R.V. at 0800/2 (C. in C., W.A. 2050/31) others to join (N.C.S.O. Aberdeen 2327/31) (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1403/31,1245/31)
S.L. 43.A.	Arrived 0730/31. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0732/31) List and destinations. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 0926/31)
O.B. 206	Sailed 0950/31, escort VANOC, ERICA (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1024/31)
O.G. 42	Route (C. in C., W.A. 1720/31)
S.C. 1. b.	Postponed sailing, weather. (N.C.S.O., Clyde, 1830/31)
B.H.X. 71.	Advance sailing telegram (N.C.S.O.
Air Escorts	H.Q. Fighter Command, report not possible in present circumstances to provide standing patrol escort for all convoys in 11 group area. Table should be watched and appropriate action taken if help signal is received or if enemy formation appears to threaten convoy. (Air Min., 2200/31)
DUCHESS OF RICHMOND WARWICK CASTLE	DUCHESS OF RICHMOND with 1680 service personnel for Canada and WARWICK CASTLE escorted by RESTIGOUCHE and WALKER have been ordered to meet H.X. 67. After contact has been made DUCHESS OF RICHMOND is to be escorted to Canada by LACONIA and RESTIGOUCHE. (D.C.D.(H) 1045/31 to LACONIA)

/RESTIGOUCHE.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

31.8.1940.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping-Contd.

RESTIGOUCHE WALKER DUCHESS OF RICHMOND rendezvous with LACONIA and H.X. 67 in position 58 degrees 25 minutes north 00' west at 0645/1. Convoy course of approach 083 degrees ROCHESTER WARWICK BLUEBELL MALLOW ARABIS due to meet convoy at same time. Thence LACONIA RESTIGOUCHE escort DUCHESS OF RICHMOND to Halifax, remainder escort H.X. 67. RESTIGOUCHE detach WARWICK CASTLE to Cape Town dark/31 (C. in C., W.A. 1259 31 to LACONIA etc.,)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

31.8.1940.
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace"

WOLVERINE VOLUNTEER ANTELOPE proceed as necessary to close SS SOBIESKI KENYA and ETTRICK off Swanbister at 1045 today and proceed in accordance with A.C.O.S. 1959/30 and his 0707/8 0 47 dated 29/8 being joined by AMBUSCADE off Hoxa at 1200. Liverpool portion of convoy escorted by Capt. D 9 in HAVELOCK with HURRICANE HIGHLANDER HARVESTER will rendezvous in position "C" (R.A.D. 0005/31)

Force M — Expected time of arrival (S.O.Force M., 1047/31)

North Atlantic

CANTON — To remain with convoy until past Mull of Kintyre (F.O.C.N.A., 1120/31)

TRIAD
TRUANT — Orders and information to (F.O.C.N.A., 1232/31)

Patrol Area — Ref. 1701/28 (Patrol Area T) S.O., Western Patrol Trawlers. For 20 miles and 40 miles in 3 places. (F.O.C.N.A. 1046/31)

GARLAND — On completion of present duty to join C. in C., W.A. May escort H.G. 43 if available in time. (D.D.D. (H) to F.O.C.N.A 1518/31)

South Atlantic

POLEMIS
ELISE — Greek ships, forcibly detained at Dakar. Owners report ordered by French Authorities to sail for Casablanca within few days. Cargoes ground nuts originally bound for Marseilles. The would welcome interception. (N.A., Athens, 1100/31)

Routes — Amending 1226/28, routes to avoid pursuit by raider or submarine (C. in C., S.A., 0952/31)

LUSTROUS — Due Capetown 27/8 from St. Vincent, not arrived (S.O.I. Capetown 1603Z/31)

/CORNWALL.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

31.8.1940.
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace"

WOLVERINE VOLUNTEER ANTELOPE proceed as necessary to close SS SOBIESKI KENYA and ETTRICK off Swanbister at 1045 today and proceed in accordance with A.C.O.S. 1959/30 and his 0707/8 O 47 dated 29/8 being joined by AMBUSCADE off Hoxa at 1200. Liverpool portion of convoy escorted by Capt. D 9 in HAVELOCK with HURRICANE HIGHLANDER HARVESTER will rendezvous in position "C" (R.A.D. 0005/31)

Force M — Expected time of arrival (S.O.Force M., 1047/31)

North Atlantic

CANTON — To remain with convoy until past Mull of Kintyre (F.O.C.N.A., 1120/31)

TRIAD
TRUANT — Orders and information to (F.O.C.N.A., 1232/31)

Patrol Area — Ref. 1701/28 (Patrol Area T) S.O., Western Patrol Trawlers. For 20 miles and 40 miles in 3 places. (F.O.C.N.A. 1046/31)

GARLAND — On completion of present duty to join C. in C., W.A. May escort H.G. 43 if available in time. (D.D.D. (H) to F.O.C.N.A 1518/31)

South Atlantic

POLEMIS
ELISE — Greek ships, forcibly detained at Dakar. Owners report ordered by French Authorities to sail for Casablanca within few days. Cargoes ground nuts originally bound for Marseilles. The would welcome interception. (N.A., Athens, 1100/31)

Routes — Amending 1226/28, routes to avoid pursuit by raider or submarine (C. in C., S.A., 0952/31)

LUSTROUS — Due Capetown 27/8 from St. Vincent, not arrived (S.O.I. Capetown 16032/31)

/CORNWALL.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

31.8.1940.
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

CORNWALL W.S.2 B.	Sailed 1600/31. Time of arrival Bombay (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1603Z/31)
West Africa	Question of unity of Command in view of developement of Free French movement. (W.O., 1645/31 to G.O.C., West Africa) (See Operations Volume)
DELHI	To leave Lagos to relieve BRIDGEWATER (C. in C., S.A., 1040/31) (DELHI, 1810/31)
Gambia	Intelligence from Gambia, for information (1st. S.L. to C.S. One, 1450/31) (See Operation Volume)
MALOJA	Your 1120/29, date of docking. Yes. (D.O.D. (F) to C. in C., S.A., 1329/31)
SOMERSETSHIRE	Sailed for Freetown 1340/31 (N.C.S.O., Greenock, 1441/31)
CARNARVON CASTLE	Expected time of arrival (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1208/31)
TOUAREG	Sailing for Dakar with deported minor officeials from French Equitorial Africa. (C. in C., S.A., 1042/31)
French Trade	My 1301/27/7 and 1216/19/8. Cancel my instructions as reagrds French Equatorial and French Cameroons. Trade with ports in these territories may how be resumed. S.O. (I)'s to inform N.C.S.O's and reporting officers. (C. in C., S.A. 1705/31)

/Mediterranean.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

31.8.1940.
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Enemy Forces

3 Cruisers and one or more destroyers steering 090° in position 052°, 37° N., 16° E., 54 miles (RAINBOW, 06552/31)

Operation "Hats"

PANDORA and PROTEUS result of observations at certain places (Capt. S. 1. to N.O.I.C. Malta, 1121/31)

Spanish Aircraft (see Air)

Enemy Force Attacked

4 Cruisers, 5 destroyers, 124°, 38° N., 18° E., 25 miles, course 165° speed 26 knots. Estimated 2 hits, area evacuated, T.O.O. 1230/31. (PARTHIAN to Capt S.I. 1455/31) (D.S. 362)

Convoy, CORNWALL Damaged

At 1715/31, Capt D. 14 in Jervis, escorting CORNWALL, and in company with JUNO, DAINTY and DIAMOND, reported CORNWALL's steering gear had been destroyed and that ship was steering by main engines, position 35° 25' N., N., 21° 50' E., about 80' West of Crete. (D.S., 362)

Indicate position, course and speed of convoy. (C. in C., Med., to Capt. D.14. 1947/31) Convoy steer 260. (C. in C., Med. to Capt D. 14, 2005/31) My position course and speed, 344°, 35° N., 22° E., 27, 260 degs., 9½ knots. Steering by main engines. (Capt D.14. 2015/31)

Submarines

Advising that British Forces are operating to southward of patrol area from 31/8. (Capt. S.1 to Submarines on patrol, 2304/31)

Turkish Boom Defences

Turks have no suitable vessels for dealing with British boom equipment. (N.A., Angora, 1623/31)

Troop Transports

Re arrival dates at Suez of U.S. 4., U.S. 5, and B.N. 5½. (W.O. to C. in C., M.E., 2225/31)

/Air.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

31.8.1940.
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Air

Depth Charges — Your 1921/27. Details re modification required for depth charges in Sunderland aircraft. (D.T.M., to C. in C., Med., 1053/31)

Enemy Torpedo — Your 1815/17 and my 1231/19. Fittings are almost certainly from torpedo (D.T.M., 1258/31 to C. in C., Med.)

Recce — Sunderland aircraft sighted no enemy warships or merchant vessels. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 2159/31)

Spanish Aircraft — Spanish seaplanes from Majorca have searched Western Basin on basin on behalf of Italy when H.M. ships known to be at sea. Spanish aircraft sighted in vicinity of your forces should be engaged unless believed to be on normal air routes. (D.D.D. (F) to F.O.C. Force H., 2159/31)

East Indies

R.S. 5. — Arrived 0330Z with CARTHAGE and KINGSTON (N.O.I.C. Aden 0606Z/31)

LEANDER — Left 0430Z to join B.N. 4. (N.O.I.C. Aden 0606Z/31)

Raider Tactics — My 1056/26. Significant that several attacks have been made during dark hours. As no reported suspicions vessel sighted in daylight has yet attacked on East Indies Station it may be policy of enemy raider to shadow in light attack in darkness possibly aided by R.D/F as suggested in A.L.E. 011580/40 18/6. Surprise thus attained may account for lack of distress reports. (C. in C., E.I. 0646Z/31)

CAPETOWN — To leave Colombo 31/8 to escort STRATHALLAN (C. in C., E.I., 0716/31) to fuel at Bombay. (C. in C., E.I., 1534Z/31)

CERES — Programme from Mombasa and to R.V. with W.S. 2.A. (C. in C., E.I., 1118Z/31, amended 1528/31)

/HOSANG.....

MOST SECRET

31.8.1940.
Saturday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

HOSANG	D. of S.T. 0047/24 and your 0711/26. HOSANG only is required Bombay for use with Indian Troops (S.T.O. Bombay to N.O.I.C. Hong Kong 1233Z/31)
ESANG	Your 1001/29. ESANG not required Bombay. (S.S.T.O., Indies, 1234Z/31)
NEPTUNE	Ref. 0612/27 from C. in C., East Indies Para. (i) (c) No word at all has been passed to NEPTUNE's ship's company with regard to the ultimate destination of the ship. With the completion of present docking the ship will be in all respects efficient to continue in the hunt for the raider. Ref. 1140Z/28 from C. in C., E.I. NEPTUNE will be ready for service p.m. 4/9. (NEPTUNE, 1657/31)
HOBART	Attacked by aircraft 17.13 N., 40.29 E. between 0555 and 0755/30. No damage. (D.S. 362)
ROYAL SOVEREIGN	State of boilers (S.N.O. Red Sea 1826/31)

America & West Indies

U.S.Bases	Broad agreement now reached with the U.S.A. about bases. See telegrams from Colonial Office to Governor in this connection. U.S.A sending acruiser to Bermuda leaving 3/9 carrying experts. U.S. experts should be given every facility for preliminary examination of possible sites but you should not at this stage enter into any discussion. (Head of M. 2228/31 to C. in C., A.W.I.)
ACASTA	Crew refuse to sail without guns. (N.C.S.O. Trinidad, 1726/31)
PENDELIS	Greek, Chief engineer (Bucker) a trouble maker, reported by Consul at Norfolk, VA. (N.O.I.C., Halifax 1223/31)
U.S. Destroyers	Ambassador's tel 1866 to F.O. Arrangements for first group to arrive Halifax and date (N.A., Washington, 1620/31)

/Australia.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

31.8.1940.
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia

AQUITANIA	Numbers of personel embarked. (A.C.N.B, 1158/31)

New Zealand

MAURETANIA EMPRESS OF JAPAN ORCADES	Numbers of personnel embarked (XXXXXXX.) (N.Z.N.B. 00512/31)

MOST SECRET

31.8.1940.
Saturday

War Diary

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

NORDERNEY	At Para, Brazil. Reported to be completing crew with certain ratings from WINDHUK. (D.S. 361)
EVROFIELD	At Teneriffe, loaded with gas oil, reported prepared for some time for secret departure. (D.S. 361)
FRISCO AEQUITAS LAURA LAURO	At Caera, Brazil, reported put under Brazilian Guard and AEQUITAS to have had parts of machinery removed. (D.S. 361)
ALBERTO FASSIO Italian	A small tanker, assumed to be this ship arrived Fiume 27/8 in ballast. (D.S.361)
NINO PADRE	Sailed from Fiume for Unknown destination with coal and general cargo. (D.S. 361)
CAPO LENA	Began unloading cargo 26/8 at Vigo. (D.S. 361)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

ALBERTO FASSIO PORTOFINO	Sailed Fiume 30/8. for unknown destination (D.S. 362)

MOST SECRET

31.8.1940.
Saturday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

HARTISMERE — (Torpedoed 28/8) Arrived escorted by GLEANER (F.O.I.C., Greenock 0033/31)

ANADARA — British tanker, 8009 tons, torpedoed in 56.04 N., 09.54' W. Is making 6 knots course 110° (WARWICK 0040/31) SABRE, SCIMITAR and WANDERER advised (C. in C., W.A. 0511/31) In convoy O.B. 205 (DS 361

SAN GABRIEL — Greek, 4943 tons, torpedoed 56.04 N., 09.54' W., in convoy O.B. 205. Still floating, have picked up crew. (WARWICK 0040/31) SABRE, SCIMITAR and WANDERER advised. (C. in C., W.A., 0511/31) Asking for tug (F.O.I.C. Greenock to A.C.O.S., 0606/31) Have crew on board, still well afloat, but too rough to put crew back again. Will also require tug. (WARWICK 0730/31) Details of attack (WARWICK 0800/31) Escorting VOLENDAM, left SAN GABRIEL still afloat. (WARWICK, 1300/31) Your 0730. Tug THAMES proceeding from Stornoway to SAN GABRIEL due position 56.04 N., 09.54 W., about 2100 tonight Report if any further assistance required. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1655/31 to WARWICK)

VILLE DE HASSELT — Belgian, 7461 tons, torpedoed (Valentia and Port Patrick Radio, 1609/31 G.M.T.) Approx. position 56.30 N., 13.00 W., at 1709. (C. in C., W.A., 1817/31, advising WARWICK to close) Bound independently New York to Glasgow. Following received from Scarborough at 0824 G.M.T. S.O.S. lifeboat VILLE DE HASSELT bearing from Portrush 330. 5/1. (D.D.I.C., 1030/1) Asking WARWICK if in touch with VILLE DE HASSELT. She is still afloat (C. in C., W.A., 1027/1)

Received at 0802 G.M.T. HILMIR asking if three boats from VILLE DE HASSELT have been rescued. We have just one life boat from VILLE DE HASSELT with all ~~kinds~~ hands on board but the Officer on that boat states the other boats have left the sinking VILLE DE HASSELT one of which was fitted with wireless. Will keep look out for the other boat. (Port Patrick Radio, 0918/1, to N.O.I.C. Greenock) Tug ENGLISHMAN ordered to assist GLEANER to escort. (N.O.I.C., Greenock, 1216/1)

/EMPIRE.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

31.8.1940.
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked- Contd.

EMPIRE MOOSE — British, 6103 tons, Captain landed Belfast by boat and reported that his ship was torpedoed about 1530/29. All crew got away in boats, but all not yet reported landed. Ship was in convoy O.A. 204, outward bound for Port Sulphar Lousiana. Convoy had scattered after a previous attack. (D.S. 362 D.O.R. 1/9)

VOLENDAM — Following from Port Patrick Radio. Received at 1753 G.M.T. Advise harbour Master Greenock and Cunard White Star line the following 251 persons on board from VOLENDAM of which 75 children wish to land all at Greenock tonight. Children scantily clad please arrange some clothing due 9 p.m. VALVATNA Master (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 1759/31)

Detach SCIMITAR to escort VOLENDAM (C. in C., W.A. to WANDERER, 1821/31) Have 32 men from VOLENDAM on board, 1 British 1 Chinese remainder Dutch, position 225° Cversay 6. Request destruction. (SABRE 0001/1)

DALBLAIR — (Torpedoed 28/8) Chief Officer, Chief Engineer, 2 stokers, picked up from boat by tug ENGLISHMAN (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 2142/31)

LEONIDAS M. VALMAS — (Torpedoed 20/8) Dutch rescue tug SCHELDE arrived with her. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 0731/31)

ALIDA GORTHORN Torpedoed 28/8 — Swedish, 2373 tons, tug ENGLISHMAN reports picked up lifeboat with Chief Officer, Chief Engineer, 2 stokers DALBLAIR also 14 of Swedish ALIDA GORTHORN. Both vessels were torpedoed 28/8. Proceeding to land them in Buncrana, 1305/31. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2142/31) Torpedoed about 0030/29 after having previously picked up DALBLAIR survivors (Londonderry, 1531/1)

/Submarines Reported....

MOST SECRET
31.8.1940.
Saturday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

0033 — 56.30 N., 9.30 W., position indefinite (D.S. 361)

0524 — 56.10 N., 9.43 W., P/S seen by aircraft (D.S. 361) (C. in C., W.A., 0707/31) (Stranraer, 1205/31)

0603 — 55.10 N., 11.30 W., position indefinite (D.S. 361)

0040 — 56.04 N., 9.54 W., (SAN GABRIEL torpedoed) (Plymouth A.C.H.Q., 0555/31)

1121 — 54.42 N., 10.16 W., Sighted by (DUNSTER GRANGE 1121/31, Valentia Radio, 1021/31)

1219 — D.F., unknown enemy unit probably U/B 57.20 N., 22.50 W., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C., 1247/31)

1841 — 50.22 N., 2.24 W., 3 submarines in line ahead. Dived on sighting aircraft, course westerly. (C. in C., W.A., 2015/31) SALADIN and STURDY to hunt (C. in C., Portsmouth 2028/31, 2029/31) BROKE and VANSITTART advised (C. in C., W.A., 22.3/31) Abandon hunt (C. in C., P., to SALADIN and STURDY 003/1)

q — My. 0017/31. Continue hunt tonight. Aircraft co-operating may drop flares. Possibility U-Boat may be in Mounts Bay again about dark. If no contact proceed to arrive Scilly Isles at 0900/1 and get in touch with military commander. You will be required for patrol tomorrow night. (C. in C., W.A. 1731/31 to BROKE and VANSITTART)

2051 — 56° to 57° N., 8° to 10° W., (D.S. 362)

North Atlantic

1014 — Off Corunna, position indefinite (A.1). (D.S. 361)

2356 — Italian U/B bearing 071° 1st class from Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A., 0026/1)

/Estimated U/B dispositions

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN -Contd.

Estimated U/B Dispositions

Italian or German- possibly 1 in Cape de Verde Islands area; 1 between Azores and Spain.

German- 1 off Corunna at 1014/31 probably moving S.W.

1 near Lands End at 2337/30.

1 in about 57° 20' N., 22° 50' W., at 1219/31.

4 in N.W. Approaches of which 1 was in about 55° 10' N., 11° 30' W., at 0608/31. another in about 56° 10' N., 9° 43' W., at 0524/31, a third in about 56° N., 12° 59' W., at 2330/29. whereabouts of fourth unknown.

Also 1 was in 58° 48' N., 6° 49' W at 0136/30.

Probably now between N. Rona and Faroes outward bound and 1 E. of Shetlands homeward bound.

(D.D.I.C., 1249/31)

N.B. The Addresses are to be written in the spaces provided for that purpose.

T.S.D	(HISTORICAL SECTION)	
	ADMIRALTY	

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.9.1940.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Protection of shipping in Western Approaches

C. in C., Western Approaches makes detailed proposals for the protection of shipping in his command (see 26/8)
In the Submarine danger zone escorts are to consist of at least 2 destroyers, 2 sloops or corvettes, and 2 trawlers.
The constitution of each group of escorts is to remain unchanged, so that the group will work as a team.
He proposes that 3 destroyers flotillas (9th, 11th and 17th) and 4 "S" class destroyers shall be based at Liverpool; the 12th D.F. and R.C.N. destroyers at Scapa; and the four Polish destroyers at Plymouth.

Force H.

FIJI was torpedoed this afternoon west of the Outer Herbrides but returned to harbour under her own steam. Her place in Force H is to be taken by AUSTRALIA.

MESME

At 2145 today patrol boat MESME was sunk in collision with SUNFISH. The latter was not damaged.

Sweep of the Broad Fourteens

Air reconnaissance having indicated the possibility of enemy surface forces leaving Emden for Dutch ports all available destroyers at Harwich were ordered at 1945 to proceed as soon as possible for a sweep of the Broad Fourteens.

British Air Operations

12 Blenheims last night successfully attacked the docks and concentrations of shipping at Emden. The gun emplacements at Cap Gris Nez were attacked, but results were not observed.

Air escort was provided for 25 convoys
Over 40 aircraft of Coastal Command provided cover for damaged destroyers returning from Terschelling.

/Enemy Air.....

MOST SECRET

1.9.1940.
Sunday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Operations

Enemy air activity was on a reduced scale today. Aerodromes again appeared to be the objectives.

A number of bombs were dropped in the Docks area at Tilbury this morning, considerable damage was caused but there were no Naval casualties. A time bomb exploded 6 hours later and wrecked the sea gates of a derelict basin leading to the Thames-Medway Canal.

Two balloons were shot down at Dover.

At Liverpool last night a ship under construction was slightly damaged by a bomb which fell near.

The damaged destroyers returning from Terschelling were bombed p.m. today without damage

Mining

Minelaying last night by enemy aircraft is suspected in the Tyne-Tees area, off the Humber, Norfolk Coast, Thames Estuary and Dungeness to Poole.

Liverpool was closed from 0345 to 1045 today.

M.S. Trawler ROYALO was mined and sunk in Mounts Bay early this afternoon.

Foreign Stations

Cable

The Italian Las Palmas-St. Vincent cable was cut today south of Teneriffe.

Italian Force at Sea

~~Twice~~ Three Sunderlands on reconnaissance this afternoon sighted a force of enemy warships, comprising 2 battleships, 10 cruisers and 14 destroyers 110 miles S.W. of Corfu, apparently making for Taranto at 18 knots. (See Operation HATS 2/9)

/Convoy A.P.1.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.9.1940.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Foreign Stations-Contd.

Convoy A.P.1.

YORK arrived at Freetown this morning with fast convoy A.P.1. (DUCHESS OF BEDFORD, WAIOTIRA, DENBIGHSHIRE) with M.T. for Egypt, and left this morning for Capetown.

NEPTUNE

Is to continue her voyage to U.K. unless further news is heard of the raider in the South Atlantic.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.9.1940.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Ships to return to Base or normal duty at daylight if no enemy reported (C. in C., Nore 0207/1 to C.S. 2., D.16, D.21, and destroyers)

Adty. 2200/31. Revert to usual notice for steam. (Duty Captain 0658/1 to C's in C)

Dover.
U/P Defences

Dover U/P batteries fired 120 rounds at 1130/1 at Dornier 17 bomber passing from West to East at 1500 feet close outside harbour. Aircraft passed through U/P barrage before it was fully operative and did not appear to be damage thereby. (V.A. Dover, 1754/1 to Adty.)

Policy

French Ships
VIKING
VAILLANT

I place VIKING and VAILLANT under your direct orders. VIKING is now available VAILLANT repairing at Sheerness expected complete 7/9 (C. in C., French Naval Forces 1040/1 to C. in C., W.A.)

Rosyth Escort
Force.
Proposed
Additional
Destroyers

Adty. 1520/31. To avoid reduction in number of East Coast Convoys suggest that 3 HUNT-class Destroyers from Nore be attached to R.E.F. They could be used for anti-invasion duty in emergency, as well as for Convoy Escorts. (C. in C., Rosyth 1248/1 to Adty.)

Londonderry

It is hoped to transfer A/S organisation in TITANIA to shore at Londonderry very soon, TITANIA then relieving MAIDSTONE in Firth of Forth and MAIDSTONE proceeding to Scapa to relieve WOOLWICH which sails in convoy to Mediterranean on 25/9. Would be helpful if you could sail WOOLWICH for Liverpool on 4/9. (D.O.D. H. 1748/1 to C. in C., H.F.)

Division of
W.A.Command

Necessary now to decide new limits of Station and names of new commands. Proposed lines of division and proposed names. Request remarks. (V.C.N.S. 1751/1 to C. in C., W.A.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.9.1940.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

18 C.S. — Passes Gate outward at 0030/1. (C. in C., Rosyth 006/1 to VERSATILE) return to base. (C. in C., Nore 057/1 to F.O.C. 18 C.S., Capt D. 5th D/F)

D. 21. — Take VERDUN under your orders and sail with Flotilla to arrive Aldeburgh Light Float 0400/1 and patrol between there and 54 B.Buoy. (C. in C., Nore 0011/1 to Capt. D. 21)

Nore — Following movements have been ordered (C. in C., Nore 0014/1 to Adty.) Night dispositions night 1/2. (C. in C., Nore 0800/1) Patrol O for night 2/3 by 16th D/F and Patrol S by 21st D/F. (C. in C., Nore 1039/1) Cancel Patrol T tonight (C. in C., Nore 1037/1 to D.21) Day Patrols and Movements to 1200/2 (C in C., Nore 1200/1)

NEWCASTLE, BROKE, VANSITTART — My 2313. If no further information by 0700/1 return to Plymouth. My 1731 to BROKE is cancelled. (C. in C., W.A. 0017/1 to NEWCASTLE) NEWCASTLE to remain at Plymouth ar 10 minutes notice. BROKE and VANSITTART proceed to St. Mary's to comply with my 1731. (C. in C., W.A. 0113/1) BROKE and VANSITTART return to Plymouth by 0730/2 (C. in C., W.A. 1613/1)

3 destroyers leave Rosyth 0145 and proceed south along War Channel at high speed. (C. in C., Rosyth 0054/1)

9 M.T.B's proceeding N.E. leaving Harwich now (F.O. Harwich Force 0124/1)(to Capt. D.16)

SHIKARI, SKATE — Your 1619/31. Sailed 0100/1. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 0745/1 to C. in C., W.A.)

Rosyth Command — Positions and movements for next 12 hours (C. in C., Rosyth 0758/1)

/WITCH.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.9.1940.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements- Contd.

WITCH	Will be ready for sea 2000/1. N.O.I.C. Belfast 1025/1 to C. in C., W.A.)
Harwich	A/P Patrols for 1/9. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1030/1) Dispositions and Movements to 1200/2. (N.O.I.C. Harwich 1548/1)
Dover	Patrols for night 1/2. (V.A.Dover 1154/1)
SHEARWATER	Sailed from Harwich 1216/1 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1219/1)
LEITH	My 1231/8. Joined Liverpool Sloop Division (C. in C., W.A. 1513/1 to Adty.)
JASON	My 1230/8 Joined Northern Escort Force. (C. in C., W.A. 1513/1 to Adty.)
ZULU SIKH KASHMIRE KIPLING	Proceed passing Switha 1000/2 to arrived Port ZA at 1800/2. Provide escort for Minelayers for S.N. 41. (R.A.D. 1705/1)
16th D.F.	Raise steam with all despatch and report when ready to proceed. (C. in C., Nore 1743/1 to D. 16.)
Portsmouth	Movements for night 1/2 (C. in C., Portsmouth 1757/1)
Orkneys	State of A/S Trawlers (A.C.O.S. 1930/1 to Adty.O) (A.C.O.S. 1620/1)

Operations

Sweep off Dutch Coast	Available destroyers at Harwich are to leave harbour as soon as possible and proceed through Gap E. thence follow the parallel of 52 10 North until within 10 miles of Dutch Coast and then sweep up through Broad Fourteens as far as Ymuiden returning by the same route. Air reconnaissance of Emden indicates enemy surface Forces may be proceeding to Dutch Ports. (1st S.L. 1945/1 to C. in C., Nore)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.9.1940.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines

H.34

Passes Position Z on surface about 0300 for Gap E. (C. in C., Nore 0020/1) Return to base with all despatch. (F.O.S. 0814/1 to H.34)

Adty's 1833/7/7

W.A.Movements (C. in C., W.A. 1455/1)
Orkneys (A.C.O.S. 1641/1)
Greenock Area (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1714/1)
Portsmouth (C. in C., Portsmouth 1854/1)

Positions

For following 24 hours at 0600/2. Area B (V.A.S. 1649/1) Area A (V.A.S. 1654/1)

E-Boats

At 0615/1 in 53° 25' N., 3° 27' E., Aircraft saw 4 E-Boats steering 020° (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1000/1)

At 1205/1 in 52° 25' N., 3° 50' E., A/C saw one E-Boat steering S.W. at high speed. (H.Q.B.C., Recd. 0046/3)

British Air Activity

S.A. 3 and S.A. 2

S.A. 3. and two southernmost tracks of S.A. 2 cancelled. (C. in C., Rosyth 1720/1 to Adty.)

Rosyth Area

Air Searches for 2/9. (C. in C., Rosyth 1758/1)

Lorient

At 2217/1. Aircraft attacked ship yards at Lorient. Hits seen in yards to East of River and fires started. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 0250/2)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.9.1940.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity

Dover, Balloon Barrage	2 Balloons shot down by enemy aircraft at 1120/1 (V.A.Dover 1236/1 to Adty.) Another Balloon was shot down at 1650/1 (V.A.Dover 1236/1 to Adty.) Another Balloon was shot down at 1650/1 (V.A. Dover 1119/2 to Adty.)
Tilbury	Bombed at 1110/1. Number of Bombs in Docks area. One warehouse destroyed. Considerable damage to houses in town. No Naval or Docks casualties. (F.O.I.C London 1303/1 and 1507/1 to C. in C., Nore)
Convoy COVER	Enemy aircraft attacking convoy. (IVANHOE 1335/1) Position 53° 25' N., 3° 46' (GARTH 1640) Convoy being shadowed by one aircraft. (KELVIN 1710/1) Aircraft attacking convoy. My position 53° 33' N., 2° 10' E., (Capt. D. 5. 1944/1) Help. (Capt D 5. 2032/1) Aircraft dropping flares at 53° 4' N., 1° 54' E., (STORK 2155/1)
LIVERPOOL	Bomb fell near J.3968 last night. Some compartments flooded and 7° list to port. Damage at present believed not serious. (WARSHIPROD, Liverpool 1646/1 to Conwork, Adty. Bath)
Thames Medway Canal	Time bombs dropped 1100 today exploded 1723 wrecked sea-gates of basin leading to Thames/Medway Canal, Gravesend end. Basin drained into river Canal was derelict. No entrance into Medway. Basin only used by small local craft. Two small Admiralty Tugs refitting grounded undamaged. No casualties to personnel. (F.O.I.C. London 2200/1 to C. in C., Nore)
Pembroke Docks	Enemy Aircraft dropped bombs near Pembroke Docks Beacon at 2200, 2300 and 0150 last night. No damage to Naval property or personnel. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven. 1129/2 to C. in C., W.A)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.9.1940.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Newhaven

4 Heavy explosions to westward. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 0025/1 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

EXPRESS
Damaged

ESK
IVANHOE
Sunk

EXPRESS, ESK, IVANHOE mined at 53° 30' N., 3° 47' E., Cannot steam (IVANHOE 0050/1) Keep well clear (C. in C., Nore 0127/1 to Capt. D. 5th D.F., VORTIGERN, KELVIN) 9 M.T.B's searching you about 0700 to rescue crews. (C. in C., Nore, 0131/1 to Capt. D.20.) 2 fast minesweepers and tug ST.CYPRUS to proceed forthwith to mark outer end of Gap for 20th D.F. returning (C. in C., Nore 0141/1 to N.O.I.C. Humber) ESK sunk. EXPRESS and IVANHOE proceeding astern course 315° speed 5 knots. Request air escort. (IVANHOE 0245/1 to C. in C., Nore) Eastern end of Gap will be marked by fast minesweeper from 0900 (C. in C., Nore 0445/1 to IVANHOE) proceed at best speed to join and protect EXPRESS. Capt D.5 probably in company (C. in C., Nore 0523/1 to HAMBLEDON, GARTH) Request immediate tow. Am stopped at 53° 33' N., 3° 34' E., (IVANHOE 0946/1 to C. in C., Nore) Take charge in your area. Arrange tow of IVANHOE with all despatch. (C. in C., Nore 1157/1 to Capt. D.5.)

Situation 1600/1 JUPITER has EXPRESS IN tow making for Gap where SALTASH has relieved VORTIGERN on patrol. I am escorted by HAMBLEDON and 3 M.T.B's. Have detached KELVIN, GARTH, VORTIGERN and remaining M.T.B. to bring in IVANHOE and will send tug when met. EXPRESS has all before bridge blown off and has about 90 casualties including Capt. (D) 20 seriously wounded. 14 wounded transferred KELVIN. Will retain second tug when met for EXPRESS and expect arrive Humber light vessel at 0500/2
(Capt. D.5. 1606/1 to Adty.)

IVANHOE now abandoned survivors returning to harbour in M.T.B's (C. in C., Nore 1614/1 to D.5.) IVANHOE found abandoned at 53° 29' N., E., Back broken. Have sunk with one torpedo. (KELVIN 1702/1 to Adty.)

/ Liverpool...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.9.1940.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Liverpool	Port closed (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0345/1 to Adty) Port re-opened 1045/1 (F.O.I.C Liverpool 1135/1 to Adty.)
S.N. 41	Your 2212/31. Escort will be available. (C. in C., H.F. 1005/1 to R.A.M.L.)
Dover, Mine Barrage	Adty. 1936/31. Agree if advantage of moving lines to S.E. is considered to outweigh disadvantage of reduced cover to Easterly approach to Dover. In that case propose the following new lines A. and B. (V.A.Dover 1357/1 to Adty.)
ROYALO	M/S Trawler. Mined and sunk at 1225/1 at Mounts Bay. 8 survivors (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1312/1 to C. in C., W.A.) At 90° Penzance Pier 1 mile, while turning. 9 injured, 11 missing. Time of explosion 1212/1 (F.O.I.C. Falmouth) (1452/1 to Adty)
Scapa	Last 3 red mines detonated 28/8-30/8 in following positions (A.C.O.S. 1755/1 and 1443/2)
Position Z	Minelaying possible North of position Z. Suggest you give Aldeburgh Light Float a wide berth (C. in C., Nore 2356/1 to Capt. D. 16)

Enemy Intelligence

Helder	At 0700/1 in 52° 52' N., 4° 35' E., A/C saw 6 M/V's, 1 M/L, and 3 M/S steering 200° at 10 knots. M/L about 1000 tons, 5 M/V's 500 to 800 tons, and remaining M/V 6000 tons (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1000/1) (D.D.I.C. 1200/1) At 1400/1, 10 to 15 miles from Den Helder, 3 M/V's probably tankers, heading S.S.W. (H.Q.B.C. Recd. 0046/3)
French Hospital Ships	At 1130/1 in 55° 13' N., 5° 12' W., A/C saw 2 French Hospital ships steering 105° at 10 knots. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q. 1559/1)
Air R/C	Summary of Air R/C's on 1/9. (D.D.I.C. 1744/2)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.9.1940.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoys	Situation at 2000/1 (C. in C., W.A., 1405/1)
O.B. 207	KEPPEL and WITCH to join. (C. in C., W.A. 1830/1, 1340/1, 2353/1) HEDDEROUS to R.V by C600/2. Convoy left Bar at 1332/1. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1827/1)
H.X. 67	Orders to split, route (R.A.D.H.F., 1239/1) Capt. D. C. to join (C. in C., H.F., 0153/2) Position, course and speed. (A.C.O.S. 2134/1)
H.F. 42 B	DERBY COUNTY to R.V. (C. in C., W.A. 1700/1) [illegible] Position (ENCHANTRESS, 2219/1)
O.A. 207 and E.N. 4	Longitude Cape Wrath, time and course (A.C.O.S. 1620/1)
O.A. 207	Amending his 1620/1 re course. (A.C.O.S./1936/1) Proceeding by route F. (GODETIA, 1100/1)
O.B. 206	ARROW and ACTIVE to join (C. in C., W.A. 1820/1)
S.C.1. B.M.	YORK CITY to take over escort (C. in C., W.A., 1740/1)
W.N. 11	Suspected Submarine report by FRANCES DAWSON (N.C.S.O. Methil 1804/1)
F.N. & F.S.	List of escorts for convoys 69-76 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1827/31)
O.A. 208	LOWESTOFT and SKEENA to escort (C. in C., Rosyth 0577/1)
S.L. 46	Route and list. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1602/1)
O.G. 42	Route (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1346/1)
S.C. 1.B	List and destinations (N.C.S.O., Clyde, 1241/1) Sailed 1240/1, escort CLARKIA (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1245/1)
H.X. 72	Route (D.T.D., 1242/1)
O.B. 209	Route (C. in C., W.A. 1950/1)
S.L. 44.	Orders to escort (C. in C., W.A., 1540Y)
O.A. 210	Route (C. in C., W.A., 1540/1)
H.X.	Advance sailing telegram (S.C.N.O. Halifax, 1550/1)

/MONTE GORBEA

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.9.1940.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping-Contd.

MONTE GORBEA	Spanish. Re navicert. (Consul Vigo, 0015/1)
A.M.C's	Your 1653/28. Concur (D.O.D.(H) to C. in C., W.A. 1840/1)
Route	Ships to be routed clear of a certain line between certain dates. (C. in C., W.A., 2000/1 and 2010/2, to N.C.O.3's.
SPHINX CANADA	French hospital ships. Arrived Clyde, (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1801/1)
U/B attacks, Escort Policy	My 2117/26 (1336/26 intended) My intention is that escorts in the submarine danger zone shall consist of at least 2 destroyers, 2 sloops or corvettes and 2 trawlers. Constitution of each group of escorts should remain unchanged so that the group will work as a team. Escorts will be reduced to two sloops or Corvettes from Scapa to Rosyth and inside Irish Sea. Reduced A/A defence between Scapa and Rosyth must be accepted to get a larger destroyer escort in the danger zone. Propose that destroyers should be based as follows:- (1) At Liverpool — 4 'S' class 9th D.F. 11th D.F. and 17th DF. last named to continue to be administered by Captain D.Plymouth for the present. (2) At Scapa — 12th D.F. and R.C.N. destroyers. (3) At Plymouth — The four Polish destroyers. Further proposals. (C. in C., W.A., 1921/1)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.9.1940.
Sunday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

MARSTENEN

My 0711/31. Vessel sank about 2130/30. 11 survivors transferred from CATTISTOCK to examination vessel MINNA at 2130/31 who landed them at Leith a.m. 1sts. All Well. (C. in C., Rosyth1217/1 to Adty.)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

1.9.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace"

Force M.P.B. Message from escorting cruiser at 1840 (mutilated) (R.A.F. Aldergrove, 2115/1).

French Aircraft Luciole aircraft and French air personnel now in FIJI are essential. (S.O., Force M., to Adty. 1936/1).
Following from Commander of Free Frenchmen Forces: Would like 3 pilots especially chosen for their personal contacts to be flown to join ARK ROYAL at Freetown (1015/1).
(S.O., Force M., to Adty., 1945/1).

North Atlantic

Cable Cut Adty. 1249/10. Italian Las Palmas - St. Vincent cable cut in position 27°27' N., 16°18'18" W. 27/8. (F.O.C.N.A. 1150/1).

South Atlantic

A.P.1. YORK arrived with convoy A.P.1 (S.O.I., Freetown, 0931/1). To proceed Capetown (C. in C. S.A., 1221/1, 1249/1).
YORK can reach Aden without refuelling. (C. in C., S.A., 1245/1). YORK and convoy left. Time of arrival Freetown. (S.O.I., Freetown, 1821/1). Sailing telegram, (N.C.S.O., Freetown, 2015/1).

NEPTUNE To continue voyage to U.K. unless further news of raider. (C. in C., S.A., 1000/1).

Overdue Ships My 1538/28. CITY OF CORINTH arrived Durban.
My 1105/30. JHELUM arrived Capetown.
(S.O.I., Captown, 1005/31).
My 1014/31. LUSTROUS arrived Capetown.
BARON SEMPLE, KURDISTAN due Capetown 27/8 and 28/8 not arrived. (S.O.I., Capetown, 1104/1).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

1.9.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic (Contd.)

Protection of Shipping

British northbound shipping in your area appears concentrated in square J.34. Am not clear whether ships of South America Division have freedom to leave the square for which you have detailed them in order to follow movements of ship concentration. Suggest area for ASTURIAS should be K.33 and J.34, C.O. using his discretion as to where he can provide best cover. Ships from Plate appear to be sailing in groups resulting in large number arriving at Freetown within 2 or 3 days of a convoy. It would simplify fuelling and watering and avoid ships missing convoy if they could be more evenly spread out. (? C. in C., S.A. tm 1739/1, to R.A.S.A.D.).

Congo and French Equatorial Africa

Report on interview Governor-General, Congo. Interests identical with French Equatorial Africa. Importance of Congo output being taken by Britain. Reduction of normal markets fertile ground for anti-British propaganda. (No.19 M. Mission, Leopoldville, to W.O., 1952/1).

Mediterranean

Enemy forces sighted.

Large force of enemy warships composed approximately 2 battleships, 10 cruisers, and 14 destroyers was sighted and reported at 1500 in position 38.37 N., 18.12 E., course 330° true, speed 18 knots. Captain of Hudson reconnoitring Trapani and Palermo for naval operations reported aircraft shot down by Skua. Later at 1621 hours Hudson reported landing Tunis with petrol tanks holed. (H.Q., Malta, 1645/1).

Large number cruisers, large number destroyers bearing 220° distance 10 miles, my position 38.46 N., 18.31 E. (Malta W/T intercept 1512/1). F/B N.9029 to shadow (? B.7 G., 1548/1).

Position, course and speed of enemy Battle Fleet, 38.45 N., 18.15 E., course 330, speed 18 knots. (F/B L.2160, Malta intercept 1601/1).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

1.9.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (Contd.)

Enemy Forces Sighted (Contd.)	Enemy are of type indicated - 2 battleships, 10 cruisers, 14 destroyers. Shadowing. (F/B L. 2160, 1620/1).
	2 cruisers bearing 280° 8 miles course 330, my position 38.42 N., 18.34 E. (Aircraft, 1715/1).
	Position, course and speed of enemy Battle Fleet are 39.10 N., 18.10 E., 330°, 17 knots. (F/B N.9029 1722/1).
	Advising S/ms on Patrol of position at 1600. (Capt. S.1, 1725/1).
	2 battleships, 5 cruisers, 2 destroyers bearing 120° distance 9 miles approx. true course 330°. My position 39.04 N., 38.12 E. (F/B. N. 9029, 1815/1). F/B N.9029 to return to base 1857. (Malta intercept 1735/1).
	Enemy previously reported are CAVOUR battleships. (Malta intercept, 1830/1).
	Enemy 5 cruisers bearing 330° 7 miles from enemy battleship are spread on a line of bearing CY? 0030. (F/B.N. 9029, 1734/1).
Staff Officers	Reply to C. in C., Med. 1839/29. (Hd. of M., 1538/1).
Stores Malta	Approved that reserves of all stores at Malta, service and civil, shall be increased to 8 months' stocks, falling to 6 months between convoys. Summary of intended arrangements for maintaining supplies. (D. of S.T., 1636/1).
RAINBOW	Orders to leave patrol for Alexandria. (Capt. S.1, 2001/1).
Operation "Hats"	Force I delayed by presence of Enemy forces necessitating close cover for convoy whose speed has also been reduced by bomb hits on CORNWALL. V.A.L.F. is proceeding with SYDNEY to keep R.V. with WRYNECK and then with Force F.

Anticipate .....

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (Contd.)

Operations "Hats" (Contd.)

Anticipate Force I will now R.V. with Force F about 0900/2. Fuelling programme is necessarily slightly dislocated. (C. in C., Med., 1549/1).
Destroyers should be sailed after fuelling to join in accordance with my 1859/29. I expect to R.V. Force F at about 0900. (C. in C., Med., 1755/1).

Troop Convoy

Departures Suez, GRIMSBY escorting B.S. 3½ 1345/1 (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area, 1513/1).

Mediterranean - Air

U-Boat

S/m eastern end of area in Intelligence Summary has left area, course unknown. (A/c intercept from Malta, 1435/1).

Reconn., Sicily

F/B reconnaissance of eastern Sicilian harbours p.m. 1/9. No warships and only few merchant vessels. 3 small destroyers as local patrol in Straits of Messina. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1835/1).

Alexandria to Malta

Reconnaissance of route. Malta Air Intelligence Report . (H.Q., Malta, 1645/1). 1 Sunderland 228 Sqdn. and 4 Sunderlands 230 Sqdn. reconn. Ionian Sea betweenAlexandria and Malta. Enemy fleet 2 battleships, 12 cruisers, 14 destroyers sighted 31.45 N., 18.15 E., steering 330° at 18 knots apparently making for Taranto. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1044/2, Operational Summary No. 84, refers to 1/9).

Aegean

Photograph of Leros on 31/8 shows following in Port Laki. 3 destroyers at anchor east of Zepnyrus Point. One destroyer one depot ship 2 S/ms at right angles to Jetty S.W. of floating dock. 5 S/ms close together at right angles to shore East of floating dock. 4 flying boats close northwards Zepnyrus Point. About 7 M.A.S. in Gonia Cove, a number of sea fighters in Lerida Cove. 3 Merchant Ships moored bows to shore East side of Arkhangelos Island. Clouds prevented photograph of Rhodes. Stampalia not visited. (C.O.I.S. Alexandria, 1333/1).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

1.9.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Air (Contd.)

Tripoli

Reconnaissance TRIPOLI (AFRICA) P.M. 1/9. 2 destroyers berths filled stern on to Eastern breakwater on South side harbour entrance. No cruisers. Two medium sized merchant vessels sterns to the Northern breakwater. Number of other merchant vessels in the centre of harbour. (V.A. Malta, 1629/1).

My 1629/1. Destroyers probably Italian destroyer TURBINE or SAURO class are in same position as in photograph 27/8. The 2 merchant ships referred to are stern to Custom House wharf. (V.A., Malta, 1847/1).

East Indies

Troop Transport

Your 2004/29. Shipping would be available to lift Echelon 3 Niblick in B.N. 5½ Reason for delaying ships till B.N.6 is due Middle East state they could not accept them before. (S.S.T.O., Bombay, 0804Z/1).

Enemy Intelligence

935 Since my 0416 27 and my 1746/27 the following reports have been received (i) My 1410/29 was reported in 031° 50' S. 043° 26' E. at 0414Z/26. (ii) Makatumbe light-house Dar-es-Salaam reported large suspicious aeroplane at 1625Z/30. Type indistinguishable. (iii) Dar-es-Salaam lighthouse reported sighting submarine 0815Z/31 in 005° 40' S. 039°30' E. Came to surface for one minute. I grade reports 2 and 3 at D.4 and D.5 respectively. (C. in C., E.I., 1102/31).

Raider Track

936. My 1746/27 re BRITISH COMMANDER. KANIMBLA proceeded to position of attack which she reached 0300Z/28 thence along estimated line of drift to 026°53' S. 045°37' E. reached 1300Z/28. Comparatively small amount of oil but no wreckage was sighted. 1104Z/31.

War Diary

1.9.44.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies (Contd.)

Enemy Transport, Red Sea

Suspect that heavy transports between Massawa and Assab go by sea; On 30/8 80 lorries seen south-bound south of Assab and a motor vessel at pier: ship reported leaving Assab northbound 26/6. Clearly we cannot patrol for this traffic: but a ship and aircraft could often be sent if advance information were obtained. Interception of Naval traffic could be done here to some extent if there were any hope of interpretation. Could this be arranged. (S.N.O., Red Sea, 1530Z/31, to C. in C., E.I.). Intend to run intermediate fast southbound convoys to bring troopships away from Egypt after unloading. Arrangements. (C. in C., E.I., 1204Z/1).

China

War Plans

With reference to Chief of Staff Telegram No 2 amend para (IX) to read "In view of the fact that arrangements outlined in Section XVI para. 401 of the Naval Eastern War Memorandum would not be entirely suitable what alternative arrangements for command" etc. (1st S.L., 1822/1 to C. in C. China).

Australia

Convoy US.4

ACHILLES arrived Melbourne 31/8 wearing broad pendant of Cdre. Cmdg. New Zealand Sqdn. CANBERRA escorting H.M. Transports AQUITANIA, MAURETANIA, ORCADES, EMPRESS OF JAPAN proceeding from R.V. arriving R.V. Bass Strait to Fremantle. (A.C.N.B., 0635Z/1).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

1.9.40.
Sunday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

MORBURG	Departure 30/8, Poti. (Constanza, no T.O.O/1)
ANTARKTIS NORD ATLANTIC	At Vigo, have been testing engines. Former loaded 50 bags of coffee for Hamburg. (D.S., 362).
LARISSA	Arrived Galatz from Poti with 3,000 tons manganese ore for Germany. (D.S.362).
LUVSEE	Sailed Split for Trieste 26/8. (D.S. 362).
MARITZA	Expected Split shortly. (D.S. 362).
HELIOS	At Seville, discharging cargo to defray expenses. (D.S. 362).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.9.1940.
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

H.M.S. FIJI

Torpedoed 1720/1. (FIJI, 1720/1) Position 58.10.N., 12.53 W., (FIJI, 1725/1) Sail SUPERMAN to assist FIJI (A.C.O.S. 1737/1) BEDOUIN and ASHANTI proceed to assist FIJI. (C. in C., H.F 1743/1) R.A.D. to detail 4 destroyers (C. in C., H.F., 1749/1) ANTELOPE to close at full speed (FIJI, 1755/1) Position course and speed, 58.32 N., 12.32 W., 12.48 W., 000° 10 knots. (FIJI 1800/1) TARTAR, PUNJABI, JAVELIN and JAGUAR leaving Scapa about 1930 bound west at high speed. (F.O.C.O.S., 1852/1) Your 1800. Is tug SUPERMAN required to proceed to this position? (N.O.I.C., Stornoway, 1925/1 to FIJI) BEDOUIN and ASHANTI ordered to join you should arrive about 2000/1 (C. in C., H.F., 1927/1 to FIJI). Position course and speed of FIJI, escorted by BEDOUIN, ASHANTI, VOLUNTEER and ANTELOPE at 2300 58.48 N., 11.18 W., 090° 10 knots. Situation in hand on board FIJI. No additional assistance required. (BEDOUIN, 2312/1) Notifying areas clear from U/B successes. (C. in C., H.F to FIJI 0041/2) SUPERMAN to return to Harbour. (F.O.C.O.S., 0152/2) Requesting air escort (C. in C., H.F. to C. in C., W.A., 0241/2) Expect air escort about 0700 (C. in C., Rosyth, to FIJI, 0432/2) BEDOUIN's 2312/1 Join H.X. 67 with your force (C. in C., H.F., 0153/2 to Capt D.6.) FIJI to proceed Clyde Dock available Govon. (C. in C., H.F., 0231/2) Air escort arranged with Coastal Command. (C. in C., W.A. 0359/2) At 1937 a U-Boat in your vicinity transmitted an emergency report (D.D.I.C., 2011/1, to FIJI)

EFPLOIA
Sunk

Greek, 3867 tons. Attacked by submarine 55.27 N., 13.17 W., (EFPLOIA, 0421/1) Position at 0600 55.26 N., 13 01 W., ACTIVE to investigate, (C. in C W.A., 0819/1) Wants immediate assistance, lost all boats. (Port Patrick Radio, 0600/1) WARWICK ordered to abandon search and proceed to EFPLOIA, 55.26 N., 13.01 W., and report if still afloat. (C. in C., W.A. 1231/1) Your 0819/1 Have all survivors including one slightly injured. Wreck sunk bu gunfire in 55.43 N., 13.05 W., Rejoining FORFAR (ANTHONY 1156/1)Request name of vessel reported sunk by ANTHONY in 1156/1 (Hydrographer, 1526/2)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.9.1940.
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN Contd.

VOLENDAM (Torpedoed 30/8)

Arrived 33 OLAF FOSTENES with 251 survivors. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 0005/1) SALVOIA reports 1047 B.S.T. off Altarry Head. Brief description of damage. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1318/1)

DALBLAIR Sunk 28/8

Report of sinking (1) DALBLAIR (2) United Steam Navigation Co. (3) 2310 28/8 56.6 N. 13.33 W (4) (5) (6) Unknown (7) Sank in ten minutes (8) only survivors definitely known Chief Officer Hogg Chief Engineer Blakelock and two British Indians. (9) Unknown (10) Torpedo (11) Assumed went down with ship. Party landed Buncrana with three Swedish officers and ten Swedish and Norwegian survivors from ALIDA GORTHORN herself torpedoed about 0030 29/8 after having previously picked up DALBLAIR survivors (Londonderry 1531/1)

Submarines Reported

1233

Position 338° Chicken Rock 20 miles. 54.19 N., 05.11' W. MACKAY and WESTCOTT to hunt. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1440/1) Reported by aircraft, SOMALI, HESPERUS, MACKAY and WESTCOTT ordered to hunt (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1452/1) A/S trawlers DANEMAN and GUAJA to hunt (N.O.I.C. Belfast, 1415/1)

0650/30

Master of FRANCESS DAWSON in convoy W.N. 11. reports that at 0650/30/8 in 58° 35' N., 5° 30' W., slight bump was felt under ship's bottom. Oil observed in wake for 10 minutes afterwards. Soundings of tanks and Bilges showed no change. (N.C.S.O, Methil, 1804/1)

0819

37° N., 5° E., position indefinte (D.S. 362)

0328

58° to 60° N., 20° or farther W., position very indefinte. (D.S. 362)

North Atlantic

0400

Port Captain reports submarine nationality unknown was seen 0300/1 G.M.T. by a local fisherman off Sao Lourenco Pt. east coast Madeira. (Consul, Funchal, 2055/1)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.9.1940.
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian or German- Possibly 1 in Cape Verde Islands Area.
The Italian U-Boat latterly off the Azores may now have left her patrol

German- 1 between Portugal and the Azores.
1 in about 59° N., 20° W., or farther West at 0323/1
4 in N.W. Approaches one of which was in about 56° 30' N., 13° W., at 1709/31.
Another in 55° 26' N., 13° 1' W., at 0421/1.
A third possibly in 54° 42' N., 10° 16' W. at 1131/31 and the fourth between 56° and 57° N., 8° and 10° W., at 2051/31.
Also 1 West of St. Kilda outward bound.
The 1 that was in 58° 48' N., 6° 49' W at 0130/30 was apparently homeward bound and is now in Northern North Sea (D.D.I.C. 1515/1)

Submarines Attacked

0153 U/B Sunk

Have sunk U/boat at 0153/1 in position 56.09 N., 2.17 E., (TUNA, 1815/1)

Your 0044/15/8. My 2146/16/8 and TUNAs 1815/1/9 Very glad that the result has been so successful and hope we shall catch some more on this route by keeping the matter most secret. (C. in C., H.F. to V.A.S. 1105/2)

1355

By aircraft 54.14 N., 5.06 W., One 100 lb. bomb dropped ahead of oil patch. No result observed. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q., 1400/1)

1801

One unknown submarine 027° Tory Island 29 miles (SKATE 1801/1) was U/B sighted? There is known wreck in position given. (C. in C., W.A., 1919/1 to SKATE)
SKATE's 1801 Contact attacked with 35 charges since 1600, am remaining in position (?-----2053/1)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

2.9.40.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Convoy TC.7 — 6 liners carrying 11,200 Canadian troops and escorted by REVENGE and 9 destroyers, with fighter protection during daylight 3/9, were 10 miles south of Barra Head at 1700/2, making for the Clyde.

EXPRESS — (mined 31/8) reached Hull safely at 1730 today.

H.50 — S/m H.50 is returning from patrol with one engine out of action.

R.E.F. — 2 destroyers are to be lent from the Nore to Rosyth Escort Force.

3 U-boats sunk — TUNA on her first patrol reports that she sank a U-boat at 0150/1, about 150 miles east of St. Abbs Head.
TIGRIS reports that she sank a large outward bound U-boat at 2234/2.
CACHALOT today reports that she sank a U-boat on the night of 19/8 off the Gironde.

British Air Operations

Three Blenheims successfully bombed the shipyard at Lorient last night. One Battle bombed Calais harbour but did not observe the results.

Enemy Air Operations

The National Oil Refineries Ltd. ~~depot~~ at Llandarcy was hit and set on fire last night. No Adty. cisterns are affected. Damage was caused to the G.W. Railway track at Avonmouth, and at Swansea the Main Station is out of action and other damage was caused.

A fire, believed to have been caused by incendiary bombs broke out in a warehouse in Liverpool Docks last night.

Some damage was done at Tilbury Docks in an attack this morning.

Fires .....

War Diary

MOST SECRET

2.9.40.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Operations (Contd.)

Fires were caused at the ~~Sun~~port Dock at Blyth at 2310/9, by incendiary bombs, but all were extinguished by daylight.

Two trawlers were unsuccessfully bombed and machine gunned at 1230 today to the westward of Ireland.

Convoy OA.208 was attacked off Rattray Head at 2226. BEAUMANDIR was bombed, but no further details are yet available.

Mining

The enemy are using merchant vessels as mine-layers.

C. in C., H.F. considers from a report of one of our s/ms that the enemy has probably laid a defensive mine barrier from the S.W. corner of his declared area to north of Brown Ridge.

Enemy minelaying aircraft were active at dusk off the east coast between the Wash and the Tyne.

At 2110 SUNFISH reported 4 Hienkels mine-laying 5 miles E. of May Island.

1

War Diary

MOST SECRET

2.9.40.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Operation"Hats"

F.O. Force H. reports that operation "HATS" was carried out in the Western Mediterranean according to plan. This entailed reinforcement of the Mediterranean Fleet by VALIANT, ILLUSTRIOUS, YORK, CALCUTTA and COVENTRY, known during the operation as Force F.

Force B (RENOWN, ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD and 15 destroyers, 4 for Force F) left Gibraltar 0950/30/8 and passed the longitude of Galita Island pm 1/9. The force was to alter course to the N.E. before dark, as though making for Gaeta or Naples. On 31/8 Skuas shot down two shadowing aircraft. am/1/9 Swordfish attacked Elma aerodrome; observation of results was difficult, but Rome broadcast admits damage and destruction of 2 aircraft on the ground; Aircraft at 0650/1 sighted a convoy of 7 merchant ships steering north, close west of Sardinia; these may have been French, but in any case Admiral Somerville refrained from attacking owing to the possible prejudice of the current operation. A Fulmar despatched at 1805 to intercept a shadowing aircraft unfortunately engaged a Hudson which force landed in Tunis with petrol tanks holed.

At 2200 Force B arrived in position north east of Skerki Bank and Force F was detached to R.V. with Force I (Medit. Fleet and convoy of 3 merchant ships for Malta) off Gozo Light.

am/2 9 Swordfish from ARK ROYAL attacked Cagliari. Low visibility prevented the attack being successful.

Force I was shadowed by aircraft pm/30/8, and was bombed about noon/31/8, S.S. CORNWALL (stores) having her steering gear damaged and her speed reduced. EAGLE's fighters shot down one shadowing aircraft at 1500. At 1813 search by EAGLE's aircraft located an enemy force of 2 battleships, 7 cruisers and some destroyers 120 miles west of WARSPITE, who was then about 60 miles west of Cape Matapan. The enemy was too far off to allow of return of air striking force before dark and C. in C. Mediterranean moved his force to

northward .....

MOST SECRET

2.9.40.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean (Contd.)

Operation "HATS" (Contd.)

northward of the convoy to cover the latter and intercept the enemy, if he should continue a southerly course. Air search at dawn 1/9 failed to re-locate the enemy and it was not until 1600/1 that C. in C., learnt that flying boats had sighted the force steering for and about 100 miles distant from Taranto, having evidently turned back shortly after force I was reported.

Both PARTHIAN and RAINBOW sighted a force of cruisers and destroyers am/1. PARTHIAN claimed 2 hits, which was corroborated by intercepted messages that an enemy unit was in difficulties.

There was heavy weather on 1/9 but the convoy arrived safely at Malta am/2 and Forces F and I met at 0900. Enemy aircraft attempted to shadow and 2 were shot down, and as no air attack developed a.m. VALIANT was sent in to Malta to disembark her A.A. guns instead of waiting for darkness. VALIANT, COVENTRY and CALCUTTA unloaded their stores during daylight 2/9 and sailed to join C. in C., Mediterranean. The destroyers of the Mediterranean Fleet were sent in to fuel at Malta, after which the destroyers from Gibraltar (GALLANT, GRIFFIN, GREYHOUND, HOTSPUR) and GARLAND (enroute to U.K.) are to fuel.

6 enemy bombers and 15 fighters attacked units of the Fleet outside Malta harbour without causing any damage; and later the Fleet was unsuccessfully attacked by bombers, at least 5 of which ~~one~~ reported to have been shot down by ships' A.A. guns. The Hurricanes were unable to take off in time as they had just landed and were refuelling.

At 1817/2 C. in C., Mediterranean reported that all forces were about to proceed eastward.

War Diary

MOST SECRET

2.9.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Rosyth Escort Force

C. in C., Nore's 1140/2. Approved for 2 destroyers to be lent from Nore to R.E.F. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1806/2). In view of Adty. 1259/24/7 would prefer lend V or W-class destroyers to R.E.F. A HUNT-class will be sent to re-inforce convoy escorts South of Flamborough whenever available. (C. in C. Nore 1140/2 to Adty.)

Division of Western Approaches Command

Your 1751/1. Proposal for dividing line between Plymouth Command and W.A. Command, and consider Liverpool better headquarters for C. in C., W.A. than Londonderry. (C. in C., W.A. 2009/2 to Adty.)

Your 1751/1. Concur as far as A.C.O.S. is concerned. (A.C.O.S., 1124/2).

Your 1751/1. Concur as to limits and names. Better L/T communications will be necessary between Scapa and W.A. Headquarters than now available either to Clyde or Liverpool. Is an additional Coastal Command intended. (C. in C., H.F., 1317/2 to Adty.).

SPHYNX (French Hospital Ship).

To avoid any incident, earnestly request immediate instructions be given to confine Chief of Staff and crew on board the ship during her visit to Greenock. (A.F.F. 1215/2 to Adty.)

Defence of U.K.

R.M. Searchlight Battery

Your 20/Arty/5692(A.A.4)16/8. Propose R.M. S/L Battery now employed in Home Defence be withdrawn on 14/9 and be ready on 21/9 as S/L Battery in A.D.G.B. (D. of L.D. 1520/2 to War Office).

Gun Mounting Parties

Parties to mount Coast Defence Guns on S.E. coast to be provided as follows. (D. of L.D. 1936/2).

Londonderry

Four 3.7 inch Mobile Guns to be moved at once to Londonderry. Inform War Office where personnel to come from and when ready to move. (Dacoast 4. 1958/2 to A.A. Command).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

2.9.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

MAORI	To proceed pm/2 to R.V. with DUNCAN as in R.A.D., H.F., 1919/1 and to afford escort to Lerwick as in N.O.I.C. Aberdeen's 1707/30. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1109/2 to MAORI).
Harwich	Patrols for 2/9. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1115/2).
Patrol O.	Cancel my 1039/1. Patrol O tonight by 2 of 21st D.F. Night 3/4 by 16th D.F. (C. in C., Nore, 1115/2 to D.16).
Nore	Operational Memorandum No.11. (C. in C., Nore).
Dover	Patrols for night 2/3. (V.A. Dover, 1249/2 and 1326/2).
UPRIGHT ESKIMO	Intend sail UPRIGHT escorted by ESKIMO about 2030/3 for Clyde. Expect arrive 1300/4. Both carrying out trials off Barrow between 1100 and 2030/3. (N.O.I.C. Barrow 1548/2 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).
CHITRAL	Leaves Patrol to arrive Clyde 1300/9. Route. (F.O.C.N.P. 1611/2 to W.P.)
CILICIA WORCESTERSHIRE	Leave patrol to arrive Clyde respectively 1100/7 and 1400/7. (F.O.C.N.P. 1623/2 to N.P.)
BASSETT	Arrived Sheerness 1520/2. (C. in C., Nore, 1647/2).
Portsmouth	Movements for night 2/3. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1737/2).
EGLINTON HOLDERNESS QUORN	To join Nore Command when worked up. (A.C.N.S.H. 1805/2 to C. in C., H.F.).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

2.9.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Iceland

ROYAL ULSTERMAN sailed 1806/1 from Akureyri for Clyde. (N.O.I.C., Iceland 0735/2 to Adty.)

Operation M.S.

F.O.I.C. Harwich to arrange trawlers one at 54 A. Buoy and another at 53 Buoy by dark 3rd. to show lights till destroyers have passed. (C. in C., Nore, 1846/2 to V.A. Dover).

M.T.B. Sweep off Dutch Coast

Request you consider carrying out a sweep tonight with M.T.Bs on same lines as destroyer sweep last night but proceeding further up the coast. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1333/2, to C. in C., Nore).
2 M.T.Bs operating off Dutch coast tonight returning to Harwich on completion.
(S.O. S/ms Harwich, 1859/2 to H.50).
If unable to locate boat (see casualties) proceed towards Texel and sweep southwards along coast as far as fuel permits with ease. Attack anything seen east of mine barrier. Be well clear of coast by daylight.
(C. in C., Nore, 1611/2 to M.T.B.29).

Submarines

PORPOISE / TAKU

Departure ROSEMARY escorting PORPOISE and TAKU, expect arrive 50° N. 7° W. at 2200/3 PORPOISE and TAKU then as in V.A.S. 1439/29. (Capt. S.7 0501/2 to Adty.)

H.49

Expect arrive 1228/2. (H.49 0623/2 to N.O.I.C. Harwich).

TITANIA

Adty's 1748/1. Request date you release TITANIA for duty as S/m Depot Ship. WOOLWICH leaves Scapa 4/9. (C. in C., H.F. 1128/2 to C. in C., W.A.)

H.50

One engine out of action, speed 5 knots. Expect reach Z at 2030. (H.50 1640/2 to S.O. S/ms Harwich). Do not hesitate to ask for tug if any difficulty in returning. (S.O. S/ms, Harwich, 2005/2 to H.50).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

2.9.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines

Positions — For following 24 hours at 0600/3. Area B. (V.A.S.1643/2 Area A. (V.A.S. 1646/2 and 1854/2).

Adty. 1833/7/7 — Orkneys movements (A.C.O.S. 1646/2). Western Approaches (C. in C., W.A. 1705/2). Greenock Area (F.O. Greenock, 1815/2). Portsmouth (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1845/2).

E-Boats

Torbay — One fast unknown M-boat reported in Torbay at 0215/2. Investigate. (C. in C., W.A. to BROKE, VANSITTART).

Lorient — am/2, 5 E-boats at T.B. station. (PRU. St. Eval, 1840/2).

British Air Activity

Londonderry Balloon Barrage — Sub.Committee today approved of provision of Balloon Barrage for Naval Base at Londonderry by detaching units from existing barrages at discretion of C. in C., Fighter Command. (Air Min. 1910/2 to F.C.)

Air Searches in Rosyth Area — For 3/9. (C. in C., Rosyth 1940/2).

A/S search — A/c being sent to carry out A/s search near 58.40 N. 5.10 W. and then of area 58.40 N., 8.0 W., 58.0 N.8.0 W., 58.0 N. 7.16 W., 58.40 N. 6.10 W. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1528/2).

At 2025/2 in 53.25 N., 4.24 E., aircraft attacked 2 M/Vs about 600 tons steering South at 8 to 10 knots. One direct hit. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 0045/3).

pm/2 in 62.14 N., 5.30 E. at Quaz, aircraft bombed and machine-gunned a M.V. about 3000 tons alongside a small warehouse. Smoke seen issuing from warehouse. (Donibristle, 2210/2).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

2.9.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity (Contd.)

Dortmund-Ems Canal — Bombed between 2225 and 2359/2. Attack believed to have had a reasonable chance of success. (H.Q.B.C. 2137/3).

Enemy Air Activity

PHOEBE / BIANCA — Trawlers report being bombed and machine gunned at 1230/30 in 52.25 N. 12.0 W. No casualties. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1231/2 to Adty.).

Convoy TOPAZ — Being attacked by aircraft at 57.36 N. 1.37 W. (2226/2 BEAUMANOIR bombed off Rattray Head. (Wick Radio, recd., 2230/2).

Mining

EXPRESS — In tow with escort of destroyers. Request fighter protection from 0600/2 till arrival in Humber. Code Word PARTS. (C. in C. Nore 0203/2 to H.Q.F.C.)

SN.41 — Operation postponed 24 hours. (RAML. 1127/2 to Adty.) ZULU, SIKH, KASHMIR, KIPLING to arrive Port ZA. by 0820/4. (C. in C., H.F., 1935/2 to RAML).

Firth of Forth — 4 Heinkel aircraft minelaying 110° May Island 5 miles. (SUNFISH 2110/2 to Adty.)

Operation MS. — To lay 2 lines of mines near S. Goodwin L/V to impede enemy transports making Dover from Calais. Line A on night 3/4. Line B as soon after as possible. Code word FRUIT. Orders for INTREPID, ICARUS, IMPULSIVE, 8 M.T.Bs from Nore and Dover. (V.A. Dover, 1310/2).
Intend INTREPID, ICARUS, IMPULSIVE leave Spurn Point 1230/3, depart from S. Goodwin Light 2340/3, begin lay at 2359/3, and return same route to Immingham. Request Air escort 1400/3 at Outer Dowsing till dark, and Smiths Knoll at 0515/4 till Humber L/V reached. (INTREPID 1827/2 to V.A. Dover)(C. in C. Nore, 1846/2)(INTREPID 0903/3 to C. in C., Nore).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

Monday.
2.9.40.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining (Contd.)

Enemy M/Vs as Minelayers

It is evident enemy is using M/Vs as minelayers; and HELIGOLAND and TANNENBERG may also be used. Attention is called to CAFO.422/40 where diagrams and details are given. (F.O. S/ms 1944/2 to S/ms.) (C. in C., H.F., 1319/2 to C. in C., Rosyth).

Possible New Enemy Mine Barrier

From report of H.31 dated 22/8, consider enemy has probably laid a defensive mine barrier from S.W. corner of his declared area to North of Brown Ridges. (C. in C., H.F. 1131/2 to V.A.S.)

Enemy Intelligence

Brest

am/2. One large M/V and 7 small craft at W. end Port de Commerce and one possible T.B. 3 patrol vessels in Anse du Fret. (PRU. St. Eval, 1840/2).

Landevennec (S.E. of Brest)

8 small M/Vs and 1 small vessel. (PRU. St. Eval, 1840/2).

Between 0940 and 1126/2, aircraft saw 25 French fishing vessels in area 49.10 N. 11.40 W. (A.C.H.Q. Plymouth 2100/2 to Adty.)

Norwegian Coast

Between 1550 and 1720/2, at 61.3 N. 4.43 E. one M/V about 5000 tons. At 1731/2 in 61.44 N. 4.59 E. in Frotsjoen Fiord one M/V. about 6000 tons. In 62.9 N., 5.2 E. one M/V about 3000 tons steering North at 10 knots. (Donibristle, 2210/2 to Adty.)

At 1800/2 in 55.36 N., 5.30 E. one Danish fishing smack with no W/T aerial visible. (Donibristle, 2100/2).

At 0204/2 in 53.4 N., 3.48 E. a convoy of about 40 ships about 60 feet long steering S.W. at 5 to 10 knots. (H.Q.B.C. 0400/3).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

2.9.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoys:

OA.208	Position and escort (C. in C., Rosyth, 2010/2). Details. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0724/2, 0725/2).
HG.42	Position. (C. in C., Rosyth, 2010/2).
Iceland	COMORIN and NORTHERN SPRAY arrived escorting Icelandic convoy. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 2320/2).
OA.207	To alter course 30° to starboard after dark. (C. in C., W.A., 1820/2).
OB.207	KEPPEL and WITCH to join. (C. in C., W.A., 1631/2).
OB.209	Route. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1506/2). (C. in C., W.A., 1950/1).
T.C.7	Six liners escorted by REVENGE, etc. Route. Send two destroye s as additional escort to this convoy. (C. in C., H.F. to Capt. D.6, 0816/2). Request fighter protection (C. in C., W.A., 2007/2). Route given takes convoy through area where U-boats believed to be operating. Alternative. (D.O.D.(H) to C. in C., W.A., 1334/2).
SL.46	BULOLO as ocean escort. (C. in C., S.A., 1224/2).
HX.67	Capt. D.6 to join. (C. in C., H.F., 0153/2).
HX.70	Draft sailing telegram. (N.O.I.C. Halifax, 0958/2)
SC.3	Draft sailing telegram. (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B. 1530/2).
PASTEUR. ORONSAY. DUCHESS OF YORK. GEORGIC.	Details of commercial cargo. (D. of S.T., Liverpool, 0451/3).
A.M.Cs Cargo Space	Reply to Adty. 1617/25, re use of storage space in A.M.Cs. (C. in C., S.A., 1241/2).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

2.9.40.
Monday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

Sail M.T.Bs 29 and 31 forthwith to pick up 10 men in lifeboat reported in position 53° 24.8 N. 04° 04.2 E. Enemy knows position of boat. If air attack too heavy S.O. has authority to return to base at his discretion. Our aircraft on patrol may be able to guide M.T.Bs to the boat. (C. in C., Nore, 1344/2 to BEEHIVE).

Investigate S.O.S. at 1541/2 in 58.20 N. 12.0 W. (C. in C., W.A., 1617/2 to PUNJABI, TARTAR).

BEACON GRANGE — Chief Salvage Officer 1607/2 see 3/9.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.9.1940.
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace"

Aircraft	Provision of French aircraft for Gibraltar to replace those in FIJI is under investigation (D.O.D. (H) to F.O., Force M, 1005/2)
Force M.	Convoy 6 hours late at position D. and expected time of arrival Freetown will be 36 hours late. This will entail 24 hours postponement of all subsequent movements. Luciole aircraft and flying personnel from FIJI considered essential. (S.O.Force M., 0842/2)
AUSTRALIA	To replace FIJI in Operation Menace. FIJI to transfer French aircraft and personel. Date of arrival Freetown. (D.O.D.(H), 1652/2)
CUMBERLAND etc.,	My 1654/23. Request you place CUMBERLAND, BRIDGEWATER, MILFORD and QUANNET under orders of F.O., Force M from arrival of M at Freetown. (D.O.D. (F) to C. in C., S.A. 1700/2)
Convoy M.P.	F.O. Force M. 1047/31. DEVONSHIRE and Convoy M.P. not now expected to arrive Freetown until (date) and subsequent movements will be postponed 24 hours. (D.O.D. (F) to C. in C., S.A., 1930/2)
West Africa	Situation report No. 3. (D.N.I. to S.O. Force M., etc., 1932/2)

North Atlantic

Ships to call at Las Palmas	Request that any allied merchant ships in particular Yeoward Line calling Teneriffe and Las Palmas may be directed to make this the last Port of Call so as to obtain the latest information of enemy movements. Communication with Teneriffe very slow and unreliable. (N.C.SO. Las Palmas 0951/2)
Convoy O.G. 41	Arrived at Gibraltar with WELLINGTON (S.O. (1) Gib., 1848/2)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.9.1940.
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

French Fleet	De Gaulle's representative Brazzaville report certain units of French Fleet believed to be en route for Dakar to Port Noire. (C. in C., S.A., 1205/2)
Allied Command	Reply to tel 80576 (M.O. 4.) of 31/8. (G.O.C., West Africa, 1956/1)
AJAX ARGUS A.P. 2.	Orders re route to Capetown. (C. in C., S.A., 1251/2, 1310/2) Am routeing AJAX and SYDNEY STAR direct to Durban (C. in C., S.A., 1305/2) Request onward recute. (C. in C., S.A., to C. in C., E.I., 1313/2)
West Africa	Reliable report that Libreville decided secede from Free France and take orders from Dakar. Gen. de Larminat considers situation satisfactory but needs watching. (G.O.C., West Africa, 0400/2)
DRAGON	Asking when ready to sail from Simonstown. (C. in C., S.A., 0935/2)
MORETON BAY	Requesting reply to his 0933/23/8 re future employment. (C. in C., S.A., 0953/2)
BULOLO	To escort S.L. 46. After junction to remain in company combining convoys as ordered by DUNOTTAR CASTLE. (C. in C., S.A., 1224/2)
ENTERPRISE	Date of passing Freetown boom, and of R.V. with HAWKINS. (C. in C., S.A., 1835/2)
ARGUS	To arrive Takoradi 1250 zone time plus 1, 5/9 and after disembarking aircraft stores and personnel to sail Freetown. Course. (C.in C., S.A., 1317/2)
A.P. 2., AJAX route	My 1310/2. If necessary amend route of AJAX and A.P. two across Agulhas Bank to take advantage of searching sweep ordered in my 1248/1 para (c). (C. in C., S.A., 1314/2 to N.O.i/c Simonstown)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.9.1940.
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

C.S. 3. Shadowed, request fighters. Position, course and speed, 0060 35° N., 14° E., 38', 300°, 22 knots. (C.S. 3. to N.O.I.C. Malta, 0948/2)
Am remaining in vicinity 155° Delimara 30 in order not to disclose position fleet until sahadowing aircraft leave. (C.S. 3. 1051/2)

Troop Convoys Forecast of major troop movements to M.E. up to January, 1941. (D.O.D. (F) to C. in C's, S.A., E.I., & Med., 1610/2)

WRYNECK Join F.O.C. 1 B.S. who will pass through approx position 313, 35° N., 15° E., 23, at 1700 zone minus 3, steering 095° 15 knots. (V.A., Malta. 1759/2 to WRYNECK)

Mine Floating mine reported position 313° Delimara Light 12.2 miles at 1123 zone minus 3. (N.O.I.C., Malta 1837/2)

Sudan Possibility of early Italian action against. Requesting joint appreciation of situation. (1st S.L. to C. in C., Med., 1901/2)

Operation "HATS" Force H. will pass through position 35.40 N., 02.15 W., at 0300 zone minus one 3/9, course 272°, speed 23 knots. (S.O. Force H., 1935/2)

CORNWALL Damaged CORNWALL hit by bomb aft before arrival Damage repairable Malta. 2nd W/T operator killed, 10 injured. (S.T.O., Malta, 2137/2)

Malta Arrivals Arrived and departed. VALIANT, CALCUTTA, COVENTRY, STUART, DEFENDER, VAMPIRE, VENDETTA, DIAMOND, DAINTY, JERVIS, JUNO, NUBIAN, MOHAWK, HERO, HEREWARD, ILEX, DECOY, HASTY, WRYNECK, JANUS, IMPERIAL, HYPERION. Arrived VOYAGER, GARLAND, GALLANT, GRIFFIN, GREYHOUND, HOTSPUR. (V.A. Malta 2317/2)

/Operation "HATS"....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.9.1940.
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Operation "Hats"

Operation "Hats" so far satisfactory. VALIANT, COVENTRY and CALCUTTA unloaded and loaded stores during daylight hours, and sailed to join C. in C., Med., All destroyers refuelled except GARLAND, GALLANT, GRIFFIN, GREYHOUND, HOTSPUR, which have just arrived and will be sailed p.m. 3/9 for Gibraltar. Air interference slight and no damage in islands. (N.O.I.C., Malta 2325/2)
Report on operation Hats. (F.O. Force H., 1830/2, 1545/4) Ditto. (C. in C., Med., 1817/2)

Malta Stocks

Detailed arrangements agreed by all 3 Services and Colonial Office are set out in D. of S.T. 1636/1. Shortage of shipping precludes the allocation of more than 2 fast ships in addition to BRECONSHIRE and ULSTER PRINCE.
Possible after experience you may be able to release the latter ship.
(D. of P., to C. in C., Med., 2118/2)

VILLE ORAN escape

Report from U.S. Consul General, Casa Blanca, that French steamer VILLE ORAN ex Portland, accompanied by destroyers and aeroplanes, will attempt to force our patrols in Straits in very near future, presumably proceeding eastwards towards Marseilles.
(Gascoigne, Tangier, 2012/2)

Air

German Bombers

Small number of German dive bombers reported at Milo aerodrome Trapani, Castel Vestrano, Palermo and Cagliari. (B.2) (D.C., to C. in C., Med., 0021/2)

Aircraft Reports

Group of aircraft detected by R D/F. (N.O.I.C., Malta, 1709/2) Cancelled (N.O.I.C., Malta, 1726/2)

Aircraft detected by R. D/F approaching fleet bearing 020° distance 42 miles. (F.O.I.C., Malta, 1758/2) Cancelled (N.O.I.C., Malta 1835/2)

/Malta Raids.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.9.1940.
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Air, Contd.

Malta Raids & Reconnaissance

Malta Air Intelligence Report up to 1800/2/9. All times local. Two alarms were given during 2/9. First 1212 to 1226 hours when 6 bombers escorted by 15 fighters approached island from the North. Target-units of fleet outside harbour. Several bombs dropped in sea but no damage. Second alarm 1535 to 1545 hours- one enemy aircraft approached from south to within 10 miles of islands but turned back. 6 Hurricanes up on both occasions but no interception. Between first and second raid enemy aircraft employed low dive-bombing attacks on Naval units south-east of the island. No damage done. Reconnaissance by Sunderland 0600 to 1630 hours between Malta, Sicily and Zante. No enemy movement to report. Recco. by Skua 1610 to 1850 Syracuse, Augusta, Messina. Nil report. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 1650/2)

Expenditure of A/A ammunition in air-raids. (Govr. Malta, 2221/2)

East Indies

CARTHAGE H.S. 5., SHROPSHIRE

CARTHAGE escorting convoy R.S. 5. passed between Guardafui and Abdel-Kuri and report monsoon current still strong and irregular. If weather conditions hazardous for convoy of your size, you have full discretion to pass east of Socotia. Further route. (C. in C., E.I. to SHROPSHIRE, 06122/2)

Troop Convoys

Advising movements, C. in C., M.E., re fast and slow groups. W.S. 2 A. and date of U.S. 4. leaving Bombay. (C., In C., E.I., no T.O.O./2)

CAPETOWN

Asking permission for full calibre firing (CAPETOWN to F.O.C.R.I.N., 1102Z/2)

A.P. 3.

Admty. 1642/28. Intend CARTHAGE to escort A.P. 3. from vicinity of Durban. Request estimated date of arrival Capetown. (C. in C., E.I., to Adty.)(1242/2)

/Assab Attacked.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.9.1940.
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

Assab Attacked

Blenheims attacked jetties and warehouses Assab 1345/2 all bombs in targt area results not observed. Fire started yesterday still burning fiercely, 6 Blenheims and 14 Gladiators standing fighter patrol in pairs 0300 to 1400. No casualties. All times G.M.T. (A.H.Q., Aden, 2158/2)

Operations Enemy Ports

Your 1318/27. Realised that with your present forces it is impossible to watch these ports continuously, but until it is established that shipping is not entering them we are sure you will have them watched when forces are available. (1st. S.L. to C. in C., E.I., 2356/2)

America & West Indies

New Destroyers

My 1621/28. Attitude of Canadian Government on matter will be influenced by decision as to whether six vessels in question will become part of R.C.N. or R.N. Canadian Government desirous of operating vessels as part of C.N. and prepared to consider acquiring vessels, if such step is within the scope of United States-United Kingdom arrangement. In existing circumstances would endeavour to maintain four of the six in active operation in European waters, thus bringing Canadian destroyer contribution to a flotilla of eight. Request your views. (C.N.S., Canada, 1501/2 to Adty.)

U.S.Destroyers

Your 1620/31. To speed up arrangements for degaussing, request voltage, etc., and tonnage 8 in first group. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, to N.A. Washington. 1835/1)

Transfer Arrangements

N.A., Washington reports, provided agreement announced 3/9, Navy Dept., arranged for first group of 8 destroyers to arrive Halifax 6/9. Rea Adm. Reichmuth in leader RUSSEL will accompany and remain Halifax to superintend transfer. Destroyer depot ship DENEBOLA will arrive Halifax shortly after destroyers and act as accommodation for U.S. crews. (D.N.I., to C., in C., A.W.I., 1943/2)

/Suspicious Ship....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.9.1940.
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies-Contd.

Suspicious Ship

Master of RUAHINE reports 29/8 in position 023° 20' N., 062° 35' W., sighting ship steering erratic course in Northwesterly direction very similar to C.U. 6329 (1) number 201. S.C.I., Kingston, 1644/2)

Admiralty's 1132/27/6 Master of ROTURUA en route for U.K. Curacao reports at 0850/24/8 sighted vessel bearing N. 030 W. 10 miles Course N.E. at 0930 when bearing N. by E. Vessel altered course to south West and ROTORUA turned to bring her astern shortly losing sight over horizon. Master assumed she stopped. Later W/T signals heard from nearby GAZA calling AMARANTE. Same day AMARANTE heard calling GAZA. New York Maritime Register 28/8 reports Lisbon departure 13/8 GAZA and departure 10/8 AMARANTE for New York but does not report arrival. (S.O.(I) Kingston, 1632/2)

My 1301/26/8, re proposal for Cruiser to visit Colon, Cartagena and La Guaira Intend Comdr. West Indies in DESPATCH ~~to visit Colon, Cartagena & Curacao.~~ should visit La Guaira 11/9. (C. in C., A.W.I. 1842/2 to Adty.)

Australia & New Zealand

CUMBERLAND
REMUERA
RANGITATA

Asking confirmation if sunk. Desired to announce officially. (N.Z.N.B., 0230Z/2) Your 0238Z/2. Confirmed that CUMBERLAND and REMUERA have been sunk. Both sinkings were in the vicinity of U.K. The first by S/M attack on 24/8 and the second by A/C on 26/8. No information of any attack on RANGITATA. Requested that no announcement at present be made. Question of announcement and of information concerning furure sinkings forms subject of telegram from Dominions Office to N.Z. (D.T.D. 2122/2)

NEW ZEALAND

9311 tons. Overdue at Fremantle since 25/8. (D.S. 364)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.9.1940.
Monday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

NORBURG — Left Constanza 30/8 for Poti. (D.S.363)

LARISSA — Sailed from Galatz for Black Sea port 2/9 in ballast. (D.S. 364)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.9.1940.
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

VILLE DE MONS

Belgian, 7463 tons. Torpedoed 58.20 N., 12° W. at 1541/2 (VILLE DE MONS, 1544/2) Crew taken to lifeboats (VILLE DE MONS, 1548/2, Abandoned but afloat. (D.S.364)

THORNLEA

British 4261 tons. Torpedoed 2207/ in 55.41 N., 14.30 W., (Lyness, 2313/2) VANOC ordered to attack (C. in C., W.A. 2331/2) GLEANER and tug ENGLISHMAN to close (C. in C., W.A., 2337/2) In convoy O.B. 206 Swansea to Montreal with coal (D.S. 364) Not located (C. in C., W.A. 0949/3, VANOC 1132/3) If nothing heard of THORNLEA by dark proceed with ENGLISHMAN to south of Islay then Rosyth. (C. in C., W.A. 1607/3 to GLEANER, Capt D.14)

S.O.S., 309° from Malin Head. PUNJABI and TARTAR to investigate. Aircraft will arrive position 2000 Tug SUPERMAN also being sent. (C. in C., W.A., 1617/ 1737/2, 1749/2)

KERET
(Sunk 22/8)

Norwegian, 1718 tons, from Tyne for Sydney, N.S., in ballast, torpedoed 2310/22/8 in 54.16 N., 23.08 W., and sunk. Seven survivors landed. (D.S.363)

THEODOROS T
(Torpedoed 27/8)

Greek, 3409 tons. Master and crew rescued from boats 2135/29/8 by ECLIPSE and landed at Gibraltar today; 3 menbers of crew injured. THEODOROS T. bound from Rosario Uruguay to U.K. cargo maize joined S.L. 43 from St. Vincent Cape Verde Is. but unable to maintain speed and become detached. Ship torpedoed without warning 2030 G.M.T. 27/8 in position approximately 050° 10' N., 19° 50' W. U Boat surfaced after ship abandoned described at 700 to 800 tons Crew seen to be wearing German sailors caps. (F.O.C.N.A., 1714/2)
THEODOROS T homeward bound from Rosario, was a straggler from convoy S.L. 43 (D.S., 364)

/ H.M.S. FIJI.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.9.1940.
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

H.M.S.FIJI

(Torpedoed 1/9) BEDOUIN's 2312/1, position of FIJI. Join H.X. 67 with your force (C. in C., H.F. to Capt.D.6. 0153/2) No air escort yet arrived. My position course and speed., 58.46N., 7.36 W., 102°, 11 knots (FIJI, 0941/2) Your 0941/2. Failed to locate you. Expect relief aircraft about 1430 (c. in C., Rosyth, 1322/2)

VILLE DE HASSELT

Following received from Coastguard Kyle:- 13 survivors including Master were landed at Stornoway 1030 to-day from VILLE DE HASSELT torpedoed on 31/8 in position 57° N., 9° W., approx. Belgian Trawler TRANSPORT picked up the 13 survivors in a ships lifeboats at 1830/1/9 12 miles west of St. Kilda. Master states 3 ships lifeboats are still missing 1145/2 (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1250/2)

My 1250/2. Following from Coast Guard Kyle:- My 1145/2. Following received from Coast Guard Stornoway. Lloyds Agent Stornoway reports 40 survivors from SS VILLE DE HASSELT have been landed at Fleetwood. This now makes the ships complement safe. 1305/2. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 1440/2-)

CHELSEA

(Torpedoed 30/8) Now reported to have sunk. (D.S. 363)

VOLENDAM

(Torpedoed 30/8) Has arrived in Clyde (D.S. 363)

ANADARA

(Torpedoed 31/8) Has arrived in Clyde (D.S. 363)

LEONIDAS M. VAMAS

(Torpedoed 20/8) Has reached Greenock (D.S., 363)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.9.1940.
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarined Reported

0931 — D.F., unknown enemy unit, probable U-Boat, 49.40 N., 11.30 W., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C., 1020/2)

0332 — Indication of U-Boat (s) in 020° W., between 58° N., and 60° N., at 0332 (C. in C., W.A. to REVENGE, 1117/2)

1208 — D.F., unknown enemy unit probable U-Boat, unreliable fix. 56.50 N., 22.00W (D.D.I.C., 1250/2) (C. in C., W.A., 1253/2) (D.D.I.C., 1559/2)

1115 — Aircraft reports submarine in 58.33 N., 8.28 W., at 1115 steering 104° 8 knots (C. in C., Rosyth 1336/2) (F.O. (S) 1429/2)

1312 — Enemy submarine 55.16 N., 7.07 W., SOMALI, KEPPEL and WITCH to attack. (C. in C., W.A., 1343/2)

1400 — 56° 21' N., 7° 14' W., on surface, by Icelandic Trawler B.2 (D.S. 365)

1217 — Unless definite evidence of a U-Boat in 55.40 N., 7.54 W., rejoin your proper convoy. ERICA report ships in company and action taken. (C. in C., W.A., 1217/2) No ships in company. Contact lost during night when asdic temporarily out of action. Area searched no result, am reforming VANOC (ERICA 1320/2)

Lorient — Five submarines probably six, shown by -air reconnaissance 1/9. (P.R.U. St Eval, 1340/2)

2207 — A.F. message 55.41 N., 14 30 W., at 2107/ G.M.T., (D.D.I.C. 0153/3)

North Atlantic

0400/1 — Submarine nationality unknown reported off Jao Lourenco east coast of Madeira at 0300 G.M.T. 1/9. (F.O.C.N.A., 0200/2)

a.m. — 28° 50' N., 14° 10' W., (N. of Fuertaventura, Canary Is.) 2mU-Boats seen by aircraft. C.4. (D.S. 365)

/Estimated Dispositions.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.9.1940.
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported-Contd.

Estimated U-boat Dispositions

Italian or German- possibly 1 in Cape Verde Island Area.

German- 1 between Portugal and the Azores or farther South.
1 in about 49° 40' N., 11° 30' W., at 0931/2, probably proceeding to Lorient.
1 in about 56° 50' N., 22° W., at1208/2
3 or 4 in N.W. Approaches, no new indications of their positions.
Also 1 in 58° 10' N., 12° 55' W., at 1720/1 may be homeward bound.
(D.D.I.C., 1345/2, V.A.S., 1901/2)

Submarines Attacked

0520 — By aircraft, 206 Sqdn. 52.54 N., 3.37E (C. in C., Nore, 0520/2) 3 bombs. Result unknown. (Chatham A.C.H.Q., 0845/2)

1317 — By aircraft depth charged oil patch moving 280, position 290 Cape Wrath 7. (A/C 204 Sqdn., 1317/2)

1717 — By CLINTONEA, 56.30 N., 14.15 W., S/M submerged when fired on. (CLINTONEA, 1717/2, Scapa Base Ship, 1735/2)
VANOC ordered to attack (C. in C., W.A., 1837/2)

1850 — By aircraft, dropped depth charge on oil rising position 58.40 N., 5.10 W.,
Nothing further observed. (A/C 201 Sqdn., 1850/2)

p.m. 19/8 — CACHALOT reports during night 19/8 in position 47. 02 N., 4.49 W., carried out surface attack on U-Boat at 1500 yards range. CACHALOT dived on firing. One explosion heard 70 seconds after firing and propeller noises ceased. Investigation one hour later revealed well defined thick oil patch which smelt strongly of diesel fuel. No wreckage seen.
(V.A.S., 1621/2)

1110 — By aircraft 58.32 N., 8.28 W., 2-100 lb bombs dropped, no hits, (D.S. 364)

1305 — By aircraft 55.18 N., 7.07 W., 2-100 lb bombs dropped (D.S. 364)

Mediterranean & East Indies

1020 — A/C reported U/B at periscope depth 10 miles 220° from Alboran Island.
Destroyers hunted and attacked. (D.S.364)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

3.9.1940.
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

2 M.T.B's last night operated off the Dutch Coast.

Orkneys
A.A.Defence

C.O.C., A/A Command has proposed that 40 A/A guns of 4.5 inch and 3.7 inch calibre be withdrawn from the defence of the Scapa Flow area which he understands "has decreased considerably in importance as a Fleet Anchorage".

The Commander Orkneys and Shetlands defence proposes to take 8 heavy and 8 light guns from the defences of the Fleet Anchorages for the defence of the aerodromes nearing completion at Scaebrae and Twatt. (C. in C., H.F. and A.C.C.S. have protested against the weakening of the defenses and ask that the defence of the new aerodromes shall be met by additional guns.

Shipping at
Liverpool

The Air Ministry have given instructions that special consideration is to be given to security from air attack of large concentrations of shipping at Liverpool 6/9-8/9 and 20/9-25/9 inclusive.

S.S.TROPIC SEA
Scuttled

SS.TROPIC SEA, a Norwegian ship captured by Germans with a German prize crew on board, scuttled herself at 1000 today in 46° N., 11° W., when intercepted by TRUANT.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

3.9.1940.
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Operations

Blenheims last night attacked Cape Gris Nez. Results were not observed. Fuel tanks at Flushing were bombed last night and hits were registered, though results not observed.
A Hudson last night secured a direct hit just abaft the bridge of one of two merchant vessels 20 miles off the Texel. Dense white smoke prevented further observation.

12 Hampdens last night attacked submarines at Lorient and consider there are very reasonable chances of hits.

The Dortmund-Ems Canal was also attacked. This attack also is considered to have had reasonable chance of success.

Photographs were taken of a large number of ports from the Helder to Lorient. At the latter, some movement of naval units, pricipally S/M's, was seen.

Enemy Air Operations

Convoy OA 208 was again bombed off Rattray Head at 0120/3. SS ASHBY was damaged but continued under her own steam. SS DELFDYKE anchored off Aberdeen with a tug standing by. Amongst the survivors from SS DELFDYKE picked up by armed trawler BEACONSFIELD were 10 British women and 15 children.
SS LAGOSIAN, on fire, was taken in tow for Peterhead by a tug. SS SOESTENBURG was abandoned on fire. SS OTERO, a Dutch oiler, was taken in tow badly on fire and leaking.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

3.9.1940.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Rosyth Escort Force. Additional Destroyers

Adty. 1806/2. VIVACIOUS and VORTIGERN detailed. WATCHMAN will relieve VORTIGERN on completion of re-fit about 14/9. (C. in C., Nore 1123/4 to adty.)

Defence of U.K.

Faroes

Your 0218/31. Propose to establish look-out Stations near Kirkebo and on Kolter. Request following personnel and equipment be sent in TEVIOT BANK (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1300/3 to Adty.)

18th C.S. to Come South

SOUTHAMPTON, BIRMINGHAM and MANCHESTER are to sail a.m./4 for Sheerness. You can leave 1 of the 3 at Humber if you prefer. Bring HOLDERNESS with you if ready. Would you like destroyer escort from Humber to meet you. (C. In C., Nore 1603/3 to C.S. 18)

Concentration of barges in Flushing area and reference of C. in C., H.F. to minefield probably stretching from Q.Z.X. 176 to Eastward indicate that increased importance now attaches to waters south of Latitude 52° 30'. Only weak destroyer forces exist in this area but I am ordering C.S. 18 to come south.

Of small cruisers that would be specially useful here only one is available and she is at Humber, GALATEA is temporarily out of action. FIJI was ordered here but never arrived. CURACOA was asked for but not approved. CARDIFF is ordered to leave the command. It would be much appreciated if CARDIFF can remain until FIJI or some other ship can take her place.

If forces from Flushing landed in East Kent suitable ships to repel them would be few in number and they would have to expect considerable losses from air attack.

(C. in C., Nore 1830/3 to Adty.)

/C. in C., Nore.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

3.9.1940.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.-Contd.

C. in C., Nore's 1600/3 and 1630/3 although ships of the 18th C.S. have been removed from my operational control consider I may have a reversionary interest in them. I am of the opinion that they serve our naval strategy better by operating as a squadron from an appropriate base such as Scapa or Rosyth than to expose them unprofitably by stationing them at Sheerness. I think it requires more than a concentration of barges to justify such action. (C. in C., H.F. 2211/3)

A.A. Defence of Orkneys

G.O.C. in C.A.A. Command "understands that Scapa Flow has decreased considerably in importance as a fleet anchorage" and therefore suggests that the A.A. defences of this area should be reduced.
Recommends the withdrawl of 40 A.A guns of 4.5 and 3.7 calibre.
I request that immediate steps should be taken to disillusion A.A. command.
Please see also my 2002/29/7. Commander Orkneys and Shetlands defences now informs me that it is proposed to take 8 Heavy A.A. guns and 8 light A.A. guns from the defences of the fleet anchorage for the defences of Scaebrae and Twatt.
I must protest against the weakening of the defences. Scaebrae and Twatt are new commitments since the plan of defence was made and one outside the umbrella.
Their defence should be met by additional repitition additional guns. These aerodromes are nearing completion and a very early decision is necessary. (See my 1607/6/5. (A.C.O.S. 1738/3)

I entirely concur with A.C.O.S. 1738/3
(C. in C., H.F. 1914/3)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

3.9.1940.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Patrol T — On night 4/5 by 3 destroyers of 21st D.F. C. in C., Nore 1023/3 to D.16)

Patrol O — On night 5/6 by 21st D.F. (C. in C., Nore, 1023/3 to D.16.)

VORTIGERN — Request you sail her p.m/4 for Rosyth to join R.E.F. WATCHMAN will relieve her on 14/9. (C. in C., Nore, 1044/3 to F.O.I.C. Humber)

VIVACIOUS — On completing Patrol T a.m./5th is to be lent to R.E.F. proceeding by swept channel to arrive Rosyth 0700/6 (C. in C., Nore 1138/3 to D. 21)

Nore — Day Patrols and Movements to 1200/4. (c. in C., Nore 1200/3)

Estimate destroyers of 12th D.F. ready to sail as follows, H.M.S. ANTELOPE, H.M.S. AMAZON, 5th September, H.M.S. AMBUSCADE H.M.S. ARROW 6th September, H.M.S. ACTIVE, H.M.S. ACHATES. 7th September.
H.M.S. ANTHONY arrives Clyde to boiler clean 4th September. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1240/3 to C. in C., W.A.)

EMILE BAUDOT — French Cable Ship. Sails Plymouth 2000/3 for Clyde. Request Fighter Protection till dark 3/9 and from dawn 4/9. (C. in C., W.A., 1245/3)

MARGAREE — When ready for service will join Canadian Destroyer Division under C. in C., W.A. based at Scapa. (D.D.D.H. 1330/3 to C. in C., W.A.)

Orkneys — Movements for night 3/4. (A.C.O.S. 1550/3)

SOUTHAMPTON
BIRMINGHAM
MANCHESTER } See Defence of U.K.

/ULSTER PRINCE.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

3.9.1940.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements-Contd.

ULSTER PRINCE — Expects to be ready to sail a.m./5th. Request sailing instructions. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1641/3 to Adty.)

Portsmouth — Night Movements for night 3/4 (C. in C., Portsmouth 1727/3)

Harwich — Night Dispositions and movements to 1200/4. (N.O.I.C. Harwich 1746/3)

DEVONSHIRE — It is noticed that DEVONSHIRE has been routed through an area to the Eastward of the Azores in which a considerable number of sinkings by and sightings of U-Boats have recently occurred. (1st S.L. 2346/3 to C. in C., W.A.)

Operations

Iceland — In view of late arrival of MANCHESTER CITY and failure of BESTUM to complete loading, intend to delay sailing of convoy B.A.S. 3 until p.m./4. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1106/3 to Adty.

My 1946/23 and F.O.I.C. Greenock 1106/3 Considered the 4 trawlers detailed are not sufficient escort in view of present U-Boat activity. Proposed therefore to delay the convoy till 2 destroyers are available as extra escort through U-Boat zone. . in C., H.F. requested state earliest date when 2 destroyers can be available in Clyde for this. (A.C.N.S. H. 1816/3 to C. in C., H.F.)

Admty. 18.6/3 and F.O.I.C. Belfast 2150/3. Request you arrange that VERSATILE and VIMY now at Clyde be available to escort B.A.S. 3. (C. in C., H.F. 2329/3 to R.A.D.)

/Submarines.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

3.9.1940.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines

TITANIA (Depot Ship)	Report earliest date TITANIA can be sailed to resume duty as S/M Depot Ship. (C. in C., W.A. 1001/3 to F.O.I.C. Belfast) Ready leave Londonderry 1000/6 if escort available (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1522/3 to Adty.) (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1641/3 to C.in C., W.A.) VERSATILE and VIMY ready a.m./4 to escort TITANIA (C. in C., H.F., 1851/3 to C. in C., W.A.)
Submarine Operating Area	V.A.S. 2004/1. Concur (C. in C., H.F. 1159/3 to Adty)
Adty. 1833/7/7	Western Approaches Movements (C. in C., W.A. 1505/3) Greenock Area (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1557/3)
Positions	For following 24 hours at 0600/4 Area A (V.A.S. 1614/3) Area B., (V.A.S. 1616/3)
Submarine Patrol Off Hebrides	Your 0428/23/8 and my 1157/23/8. I should like at least one ofbthese positions to be filled during September when you have a submarine available. Your 1946/25/8, para B does this take into account the minelaying submarines remaining on patrol at end of each Lay. (C. in C., H.F. 2017/3 to V.A.S.)
TRIBUNE TRIDENT	My 1209/25/8. TRIBUNE and TRIDENT leave Patrol a.m./5 and a.m. /6 respectively and proceed meet Escort at 180° Barra 8 miles at 0700/7. (C. in C., W.A. 2047/3)
UPRIGHT ESKIMO	My 1548/2. Sailing postponed. Faulty propellor UPRIGHT. (N.O.I.C. Barrow, 2312/3 to N.O.I.C. Greenock)
TIGRIS	Your 1956/29. In view of glassy calm and fog am proceeding to Gironde. (TIGRIS 1742/3 to F.O. S/M's)

/E-Boats.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

3.9.1940.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

E-Boats

Lorient — 5 E-Boats near T.B.Station (P.R.U. St. Eval 1905/3)

Beachy Head — One E-Boat in sight. My position 135° Beachy Head 9 miles. (Read at 2345/3. Source unknown)

Position X Thames Estuary) — Minelaying by E-Boats suspected near Position X. (C. in C., Nore 2359/3 to F.O.I.C. Harwich)

Calais & Boulogne — P.R.U. Sortie 3/9 shows Calais 7 E-Boats in Outer Port. Boulogne two vessels 125 feet long possibly E-Boats and one 197 feet long. Two E-Boat off Gris Nez proceeding East. (P.I.U. 0305/4)

British Air Activity

Lorient — Between 2250/2 and 0001/3, 12 Hampdens attacked submarines at Lorient. Large explosions seen(H.Q.B.C. 2137/3)

Rosyth Area — Air searches for 4/9. (C.in C., Rosyth 1750/3)

FURIOUS to Operate off Norway — It is intended to employ FURIOUS with suitable escort to operate A/C off Norwegian coast in locality beyond range of F.A.A. A/C at Hatston. Request concurrence A.O.C., F.C be obtained for 6 aircraft from 804 Squadron to be embarked in FURIOUS for her local protection during these operations which will be of short duration. If a destroyer screen can be provided intended FURIOUS proceed for first operation on 6/9 and its duration is likely to be less than 36 hours. Object of embarking Gladiators is to have all Skuas available for dive bombing. (C. in C., H.F. 1928/3 to Adty.)

Your 1928/3 Air Ministry Concur. (5th S.L. 1336/4)

/Enemy Air.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

3.9.1940.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy OA 208 ASHBY — Bombed off Rattray Head. (Lyness W/T 0120/3) Proceeding south under own steam. (N.O.I.C., Aberdeen 1500/3 to Adty.)

DEEPDYKE — Bombed in convoy, now in tow of tug SEAMAN, 30 men, 10 women, 15 children picked up from boats at 0100/3 and landed 0315. (N.O.I.C. Peterhead, 0707/3 to N.O.I.C. Aberdeen) Anchored off Aberdeen. Tug standing by (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1500/3 to Adty.)

OTERO — Dutch Oiler. tons. Badly burnt and leaking. In tow of tug SAUCY. (N.O.I.C. Peterhead 0707/3 to N.O.I.C. Aberdeen)

LAGOSIAN — H.M.T. SOUTHERN GEM arrived 0700 with 32 survivors from LAGOSIAN, 2 badly injured. Ship bombed, on fire, and believed sunk. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 0831/3 to Adty.) On fire and in tow. Proceeding to Peterhead. (N.O.I.C., Aberdeen 1500/3 to Adty.)

Large number of enemy A/C at 51° 32' N 1° 58 E., (WOOLSTON 1020/3, FLEETWOOD 1020/3, VENETIA 1025/3)

SOESTENBURG — On fire 15 miles East of Peterhead at 1200/3. Patrols are investigating. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1500/3 to Adty.)

Mining

Scapa — Suspected minelaying at Hoxa during raid by 6 aircraft from 2303/2 to 0001/3. Hoxa entrance closed till sweeping carried out. (A.C.O.S. 0022/3 to Adty.) Further minelaying raid between 2300/2 and 0440/3. 2 Red mines detonated in Long Hope, and more suspected 10 cables from Harkness Martello Tower and in Water Sound. Switha Entrance closed. Hoxa and Fleet Channels open. sweeping continues. (A.C.O.S. 1905/3 to Adty.) Westray Firth closed to traffic. (N.O.I.C. Kirkwall 1606/3)

/Operation M.S.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

3.9.1940.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

	Mining-Contd.
Operation M.S. (Near S. Goodwin L.V.)	Request fighter protection for INTREPID, ICARUS, IMPULSIVE from 0515/4 till arrival at Humber about 0930/4. Code word PARTS (C. in C., Nore 1229/3 to H.Q.F.C.) 4 M.T.B's covering operation during night 3/4. (V.A.Dover 1229/3 to Adty.) (H.Q.F.C. 1445/3) Mines probably laid near 53 buoy since you passed. Proceed up Q.Z.S. 159 and anchor near East Shingles Buoy. At daylight proceed to Sheerness. (C. in C., Nore 2346/3 to INTREPID)
Belfast	3 mines detonated today, 138° 1.5 miles and 152° 2.5 miles from Black Head. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1634/3 to Adty.)
Portsmouth	SNAIL will be operating in Q.Z.S. 111 from 0630 to 1500/4; and 4 Dropesa sweepers in Eastern Approach Channel 1130 to 1600/4. Code word CADET. Request air cover. (c. in C., Portsmouth 1654/3 to H.Q.F.C.)
Spurn Point	Explosions at 0900/3 at 111° Spurn Point Lighthouse, at 1615/3 at 083° Spurn Point Lighthouse 5 miles. (F.O. Humber 1843/3 to Adty.)
Possible New Enemy Mine Barrier	Your 1131/2. Agree this may have been laid. (V.A.S. 1244/3 to C. in C., H.F.)
IVANHOE ESK EXPRESS	Mined. 1/9. Detailed account of mining and damage. (D.5. 2019/3 to C. in C., Nore)
CAIRO (Operation SN 5) (Northern Mine Barrier)	Cancel my 1934/2. CAIRO to sail from Clyde to R/V with 1st M/L Squadron East of Shiant Island at 1700/4, provide A/A cover, and return from Cape Wrath to Scapa after completion. (C. in C., H.F. to R.A. A/A Ships)
Position X (Thames Estuary)	Minelaying by E-Boats suspected near Position X. 4 Fleet Sweepers are to meet F.S. 70 at Position X and sweep it through as in Adty. Letter M.M.S. 0538/15 Convoy expected at Z or 0600 (C. in C., Nore 2359/3 to F.O.I.C. Harwich)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

3.9.1940.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Brest	Suspected T.B. has left. Otherwise no change. (P.R.U. St. Eval 2030/3)
Cherbourg	4 vessels, possibly T.B's or Patrol Craft, at Quay opposite entrance to Petite Rade. (P.R.U. St. Eval 2030/3)
Texel	10 miles N.W. of Texel, 7 Patrol vessels steering towards Texel. (P.I.U. 2120/3)
Norway	R/C of Egeroen, Stavanger, Haugesund, Bergen. Details (Donibristle 0100/4)

Convoys — Shipping

H.X. 67	Due 0200/4. (WARWICK, 0905/3)
H.X. 68	AURANIA to leave after dark 4/9 and return Halifax. (C. in C., W.A., 1140/3) Meet. (C. in C., W.A. 1520/3 to ST. LAURENT etc.,)
T.C. 7.	Re destroyers meeting (Capt. (D) 9 0630/3) Re A/C meeting (C. in C., W.A. 1803/3, 1813/3, REVENGE 1835/3) Position (C. in C., W.A. 2049/3) Vessels names, troops. (11,143) cargoes etc., (D. of S.T. -0430/3)
S.L.46	BULOLO left Freetown 0803/3 as ocean escort (S.O. (1) Freetown 0803/3)
F.S.71	HOLDERNESS to sail to reinforce escort, preferably before dark. (C. in C., Nore, 1013/14 to C. in C., Rosyth)
O.B.208	SCIMITAR to sail to join in 55° 22' N., 6° 0' W., at 1200/4 (C. in C., W.A. 1400/3)
S.L.44	LA MALOUINE to sail to R/V in 57° 0' N 4' W at 0600/5 and proceed with convoy to Rosyth. (C. in C., W.A., 1450/3) VANOC to join (C. in C., W.A. 1620/3)

Not met. My position 54° 15' N., 16° 10' W. SKATE not in company. (SHIKARI, 0815/3)

/SANDWICH.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

3.9.1940.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

S.L. 44 Contd. — SANDWICH and 5 of local escort joined between 0600 and 0630 and all parted company to hunt contact in 054° 35' N 015° 48' W., noon position 054° 44' 015° 24' W., Doubtful whether all ships of convoy are in company. (CANTON 1201/3)

My position 1200 054° 23' N., 016° 35' W. course 060° speed 14 knots. (SHIKARI 1201/3)

Convoy not met. My position 2100 55.01N 13.10 W., course 078° 8 knots. A/S set defective listening watch only being kept. (SHIKARI 2101/3)

C.W.11 — Intend to sail from Southend/p.m./7. (C. in C., Nore, 1520/3.

C.G.42 — SABRE, ENTELOPE, AMAZON, KEITH to meet at 1115/5 000° Altacarry 8 miles (C. in C., W.A. 1800/3)

H.G.42 — Arrived abd routed to Newport. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 1120/3)

H.G.43 — Additions to his 0935/1. (F.O.C.N.A. 1701/3)

S.C.3 — Position and course. H.M.S. DUNDEE to U.K. (D.T.D. 1929/3) Sailing Telegram (D.T.D., 1938/3)

H.X.70 — Sailing Telegram amended H.M.S. EMERALD returns to Halifax (D.T.D., 1307/3, 1710/3)

B.A.S.3. — VERSATILE and VIMY to escort (C. in C., H.F., 2329/3)

O.A.211 — Route (C. in C., W.A. 1740/3)

Fast Ships — My 1955/2 only applies to ocean bound ships (C. in C., W.A., 1255/3)

GOTEBORG — Re future employment (Adty. 1622/3 to N.A.Stockholm)

ANJA
Intercepted — Your 1527 2nd July Finnish Ship ANJA bound for Rio de Janeiro via U.S. intercepted by CILICEA G.M.T./0700/1 in 065° 32' N., 028° 35' (?) W., and brought into Reykjavik under armed guard. Master was without doubt attempting to evade patrol.

/Twelve.....

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

AMJA Intercepted, Contd. Twelve passengers proceeding to American Continent apparently no mail though hold not examined as covered with deck cargo. Personal attitude of Master to British friendly and helpful. Request instructions for disposal of ship. (N.O.i/c Iceland 1445/3, 1310/4 to Adty.)

Ships' Hulls, Colours From personal observation it is noticeable how the red boot topping of merchant ships hulls, especially those in ballast, discloses their position to aircraft. It is recommended that green or grey be adopted instead of red where this can conveniently be done. (C. in C., W.A., 1300/3)

Shipping in N.W.Approaches Your 1921/1. Concur in the idea aimed at, but I do not consider two sloops or corvettes suitable either as A/S or A/A escort from Scapa to Rosyth, the A/A Armament of the corvettes is very weak. I also doubt if trawlers will be able to remain with convoy in bad weather. I am still of the opinion that nine to ten days at sea with a convoy is far too long for Commanding Officers and Asdic operators to remain at anything like 100%, efficiency and suggest the escort should be changed at Skerryvore on the outward and homeward journey. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1130/3 to C. in C., W.A.)

A.C.O.S. Submission 1023/O.S. 331 of 24/8 provides strong grounds for appropriation of Bank Class ships to work with convoys passing between Rosyth and Cape Wrath. (C. in C., H.F. 1142/3 to Adty.)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

3.9.40.
Tuesday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

HERISLE	(Damaged by air attack 1255/20 in 55°45' N. 9°50' W.) Strained by near miss. Seaworthy for homeward.Voyage. No casualties. (N.C.S.O. Funchal,1245/3).
PHILOTIS	Sunk in collision with LUBLIN 0620/3. All crew saved (Milford Haven 1330/3). Was routed from swansea to Milford Haven to be included in convoy OG.42. Final destination Lisbon. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 1002/5, Adty. 1815/4).
BEACON GRANGE (bombed 23/8)	Refloated and anchored in Ishester Bay. Will be ready to proceed to repair part 8/9. Estimated value of ship and cargo exceed £1,000,000. (Chief Salvage Officer, 1607/2).
TROPIC SEAS	Norwegian ship TROPIC SEAS scuttled herself in position 46° N. 11° W. at 1000 3/9. Have on board Capt. and 23 crew of British S.S. HAXBY and Norwegian Capt. of TROPIC SEAS and wife. Norwegian crew and German Prize crew are in boat. Flat calm. Prize crew reported incident before abandoning. (TRUANT, 2026/3).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

3.9.40.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace".

AUSTRALIA Route.

Adty. 1652/2. Amend para 5 to read:-
Unless otherwise ordered by F.O.C. Force "M" AUSTRALIA should be routed clear of Convoy M.P. to arrive Freetown on 14/9.
Adty. 1930/2 is being repeated to AUSTTALIA. (D.O.D.(H) 1202/3 to C. in C., W.A.)
Details of route (C. in C., W.A. 1647/3).

A.P.3 Escort

Adty. 1832/28/8. Escort for A.P.3 HAVELOCK, HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER, HURRICANE, WOLVERINE, VOLUNTEER from Liverpool. ACHANTES, ACTIVE joining convoy from Clyde. (C. in C. W.A. 1719/3).

North Atlantic

Information for V.A.N.P.

Re keeping him informed of movements of warships, convoys and fast merchant ships leaving Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 1123/3 to V.A.N.P.)

State of ships and aircraft

Adty. 1943/27. 25 Swordfish and 21 Skuas serviceable. (11) Adty. 1814/28 serviceable. H.M.S. FAULKNOR, FORTUNE, FURY, FIREDRAKE, FORESIGHT, FORESTER. (S.O., Force H. 1615/3 to S.O., Force M.)

South Atlantic

Suspicious Ship

Master of GYMS (STRATHMORE) reports sighting vessel on 26/8 almost hull down in 00°13' S 007°32' W. speed 12 knots course 135° tall black funnel brown superstructure.
No suspicious movement observed. Vessel can not be identified here. (S.O.I., Capetown, 1215/3).

Convoy SL.46
BULOLO

BULOLO left 3/9 to act as ocean escort of SL.46 and thence to Belfast.
(S.O.I., Freetown, 0803/3).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

3.9.40.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

BOUGAINVILLE — French havereceived information that BOUGAINVILLE is en route Point Noire from Dakar (C.G.Leopoldville, 1207/3 to S.O., Force M.)

ABA — Hospital ship, will sail 1500/4 for Malta to embark invalids. Propose routing her via Aden and Suez. (N.O.I.C. Capetown 1418/3).

DELHI. Point Noire — C.G. Leopoldville's 1207/3. De Gaulle's representatives should be informed that DELHI is only man of war immediately available for operations in Cameroons or French Equatorial Africa. If it is considered DELHI would be of more value at Point Noire than at Duala I should like to be informed as soon as possible so that she can arrive at Point Noire before BOUGAINVILLE as I consider it undesirable that DELHI should arrive at Point Noire when BOUGAINVILLE or any other French man of war is already there. (C. in C., S.A., 1922/3 to C.G.Leopoldville, DELHI).

SIDI-FERRUCH BEVEZIERS — Your 0930/30* to H.M.S. BRIDGEWATER. French submarine SIDIFERRUCH reported to be at Libreville, where (?Position**) may be uncertain for some days. Position at Point Noire is not very satisfactory but endeavours are being made to clear it up. (C.G.Leopoldville, 1203/3 to Adty, S.O., Force M.)

* No trace in War Reg.
** Received as "Inspection".

C.G. Leopoldville 1203/3 and 1207/3 have been passed to you. Position of SIDI-FERRUCH agrees with our estimate, which also places BEVEZIERS at Dakar. (S.O.(I), Freetown, 1929/3 to Adty.)

Raider — Master of British Ship LANTALUS reports at 0540/27 following BRITISH COMMANDER's QQ QQ he saw in mirage smoke and distorted hull and funnel of a tanker bearing 050° from position 030°44' S. 045°00' E., and later dense distorted smoke bearing 055°. S.O.I., Capetown, 1531/3).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

3.9.40.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Operation SQUAWK

My 1830/2, para 8. Operation SQUAWK is wireless diversion referred to in my 1355/5/8 para 2. (S.O. Force H. 0915/3).
Note. This was part of Operation HATS.

Defence of Egypt

Your 1827/29, para 5 and 6. Presumably the organisation you refer to is the transfer to Port Said and Haifa of A.A. guns and searchlights and a certain proportion of Fleet facilities now at Alexandria. Please conform and let me know briefly for the information of the Minister of Defence what you have in mind. You may rest assured that every inch of ground will be defended according to orders given from here, and that there will be no premature withdrawal to the Delta. (1st S.L. 1630/3 to C. in C., Med.)

Movements Summary 146

C. in C., Med., 1218/3, 1200/3.

Stores

Awaiting shipment to U.K. and Alexandria. Propose to load VOLO with them. (S.T.O. Malta, 2035/3 to P.S.T.O. Egypt).
Your 1636/1. Request information (a) as to present position of British Ship BRECONSHIRE and ULSTER PRINCE. (b) Date it is anticipated they could be at Alexandria to bring stores to Malta. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 2101/3 to D. of S.T.).

E-Boat Engagement

Motor Boat probably Italian E-boat operating off N.E. coast of Malta early 3/9 was sighted at dawn and engaged by BERYL and shore batteries. E-boat took no offensive action and retired at high speed. (ii) One Italian U-boat was reported N.E. from Island 0800. BERYL obtained possible contact and attacked with depth charges. BERYL remaining in the vicinity. (N.O.I.C., Malta, 2325/3).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

3.9.40.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (Contd.)

Air Intelligence Report

Malta Air Intelligence Report up to 1800/3 all times local.
2/9 1800 to 1830. Raiders approached the Island from various directions. Reported dive bombing on naval units. No damage reported Navy claims having shot down at least 5 enemy aircraft. Hurricanes unable to take off in time as they had just landed and were refuelling. 3/9 1007 to 1024 formation of 3 enemy aircraft approached north eastern portion of the Island. No bombs dropped 4 Hurricanes and 3 Gladiators went up but no interception. Apart from yesterdays recco. 3 Sunderlands reconnoitred (2/9) area between Malta Sicily and Zante nil report 2 Sunderlands 3/9 reconnoitred N.E. to E.S.E. of Malta as far as west coast of Greece and along 22°E nothing to report. A/S patrol by 2 Swordfish. (H.Q. Malta, 1630/3 amended 1620/4).

East Indies

Air Report

H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1015/3.

BATORY

Now proceeding to Bombay. Asking permission to use her to lift 800 Australian troops and 51 Naval ratings awaiting passage. S.S. to Bombay, 1302/3).

Red Sea Force

(1) C. in C., Red Sea Force is ashore at Aden with flag in LUCIA.
(2) Red Sea Force consists of LEANDER, HOBART, CALEDON, CARLISLE, KANDAHAR, KINGSTON, KIMBERLEY, AUCKLAND, FLAMINGO, SHOREHAM, CLIVE, GRIMSBY, INDUS, HINDUSTAN, PARAMATTA.
(3) Aden Force consists of LUCIA, DERBY, HUNTLEY, AMBER, MOONSTONE, CHANTALA, CHAKDINA, SAGITTA.
(4) Cancel messages 479, 513, 524, 533, 540, 559, ?589.
(C. in C., E.I., 1124/2).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

3.9.40.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

Allied Shipping — Your 0325/30/8, Governor General and Marine Saigon gives you assurance that British and British Chartered shipping will not be detained Indo China Ports and request your assurance for French Ships at Singapore and Hong Kong. They particularly request Dutch Ships RANTUA PANDJANG and MAETSUYKER may resume voyage to Indo China. I have asked confirmation that Governor General includes all allied ships in his assurance, but have guaranteed by Chief of the staff Saigon that these two ships at any rate will not be detained. (Liaison Officer, Saigon, 1000Z/3 to C. in C., China).

America and West Indies

U.S. Destroyers — My 1620/31/8. Navy Dept. now informs me destroyers will arrive Halifax 7/9 instead of 6/9 (N.A. Washington, 0015/4).

French Mercantile Personnel — Ambassador Washington's 1814 to F.O. Fully concur that opportunity should be seized to take definite action regarding French Mercantile personnel now dissatisfied with inactivity and conditions of service in French ships in U.S.A.

1. PRESIDENT SERGEANT and ST. BERTRAND crews completed by addition of French volunteers.
2. 54 French volunteers embarked in S.S. AKAROA at Colon. Intend to remove any required at Bermuda and send remainder to U.K. in this ship.
3. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa arranging through manager Canadian Gen. mercantile to secure necessary French personnel from New York for 4 French Merchant ships in Canada. Suggest following action.

(a) All French mercantile marine personnel in U.S. be offered British service immediately.
(b) All volunteers resulting from (a) to be sent to Halifax to be disposed of as follows: (i) Man French ships in Canadian ports. (ii) Selected volunteers to be used to fill essential vacancies in A.M.Cs due to personnel refusing to sign T.124 agreements for stipulated period.

(iii).....

MOST SECRET

3.9.40.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies (Contd.)

French Mercantile Personnel (Contd.)

(iii) Send remainder to U.K., Gunners might serve in Men of War if mercantile billets not available. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1251/3 to Adty.

Australia & New Zealand

ACHILLES to proceed to Papeete.

N.Z. Govt. have decided to despatch Com. C.N.Z., Sqdn. in ACHILLES to Papeete leaving Auckland am/6 and reaching Papeete about 0700/10.
LIMERICK will be plying between Suva to arrive about 12/9. (N.Z. Naval Board, 0719Z/3).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

3.9.40.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

ULVA — British 1401 tons, N.O.I.C. Oban reports 17 survivors from ULVA of Cardiff landed at Castlebay Barra at 1600/5. Ship was torpedoed at 0215/3 180 miles W.N.W. from Inishtrahull on passage from Newport to Gibraltar with coal. Three of crew missing. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1844/5).

SAN GABRIEL (Torpedoed 31/8) — WARWICK has 22 of crew of Greek ship SAN GABRIEL on board (no casualties). Request information if thei ship has been towed into Clyde if so intend placing survivors on board ship of convoy bound for Clyde. (WARWICK, 0905/3).

Lands End Radio Station from ships in convoy SSSS on bearing approx. 290° to 305° (C. in C., W.A., 1309/3).

Submarines Reported

1231 BST — By D/F 53°30' N. 13°30' W. Unreliable fix (D.D.I.C. 1340/3).

Atlantic

1233 — 55° to 57° N. about 25° W. Position indefinite. A. (D.S. 305).

A U-boat is expected to arrive Lorient today Tuesday from patrol. (V.A.(S) 1102/3 to TIGRIS).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

3.9.40.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported (Contd.)

Estimated U/B Dispositions

Italian or German - No news of the one reported to have been seen off Cape de Verde Islands 29/8.

German -
1 between Portugal and Azores or farther S.
1 may reach Lorient tonight.
1 still somewhere between 57° and 60° N. in about 20° W.
3 in N.W. approaches of which 1 may have been in 56°30' N. 14°15' W. at 1717/2; another was in 55° 41' N., 14°30' W. at 2207/2 and the third is probably E. of 10° W.
Also 1 was in 58°20' N., 12° W. at 1441/2.
1 in 58°32' N., 8°28' W. at 1110/2 the latter homeward bound.
(D.D.I.C. 1218/3).

Have definite further evidence U-boat passes through Patrol Area at night outward bound. (TUNA 2210/3 to Capt.(S)2).

Submarines Attacked

By BLYSKAWICA, dc's dropped on believed periscope. (CANTON, 1436/3). Attacked at 1220/3, 54.47 N., 14.55' W. (BLYSKAWICA, 1221/4).
By BERYL en route

U-boat sunk by TIGRIS

Have probably compromised patrol while sinking large U-boat outward bound at 2234/2. (TIGRIS, 1742/3).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.9.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Home commands

Measures against U-Boats

TETRARCH and TRITON, en route to the Mediterranean are to patrol for 48 hours to intercept U-Boats on passage to and from Lorient and the Atlantic Trade routes.

British Air Operations

Last night, one Blenheim attacked oil tanks at Flushing, fires resulting.

Swordfish attacking targets at Terneuzen dropped bombs in the dock area, causing explosions and green flashes.

Blenheims ~~successfully~~ attacked oil tanks at Cherbourg, fires resulting.

Photographs were taken of shipping in several Dutch, Belgian, French and German ports and canals.

Photographs of Boulogne show 55 self-propelled units, 130 ft long, combining the characteristics of barges and E-Boats.

Enemy Air Operations

The Mersey Docks and Harbour Board suffered some damage today, but not reported very serious.

At 0131 today bombs were dropped without causing more than negligible damage near Newton Noyes Mine Depot and Llanion Oil Tanks

There were 3 attacks in the London area today. Small fires were caused by incendiary bombs at Royal Albert Dock and Tilbury Docks, but all were extinguished, and damage is unimportant
There were no Casualties

/Oil tanks.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.9.1940.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Operations-Contd.

Oil tanks were set on fire and the Power Station was wrecked in an attack on Thames Haven today. At Shorehaven an empty tank was wrecked.

SS MELBOURNE STAR proceeding independently was bombed and machine gunned shortly before noon today about 250 miles west of Ireland. A bombe hit her Forecastle head and it is possible MELBOURNE STAR damaged the enemy bomber.

The examination vessel at Dover was bombed and not hit today. The Dover balloons were also attacked. SS AEGEON (Greek) from Convoy O.B. 209 was bombed and damaged this morning, but reached Holyhead.

Mining

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night is suspected at various points round the coast.

Rosyth (West of Inch Kieth East Gate to Oxcars) Leith and Granton are closed.

Mines were detonated off Belfast and Harwich. A Magnetic mine, apparently used as a bomb, was recovered in a trawl off Milford Haven today.

S.N. 5.

1st. M.L. Squadron laid mines last night in the Northern Mine Barrier, CAIRO providing A.A. protection and ZULU, SIKH, KASHMIR and KIPLING escort

Foreign Stations

ARGUS

ARGUS arrived at Takoradi today with Hurricanes fitted with long range tanks which will be disembarked and flown to wherever required in the Middle East. ARGUS herself is to proceed to Freetown after disembarking aircraft.

/NEPTUNE.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.9.1940.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT

Foreign Stations-Contd.

NEPTUNE — NEPTUNE is ordered to leave Durban today to reconnoitre undefended anchorages in South Madagascar.

French Ships at Sea — The master of the SS BELLHAVEN reports on arrival at Freetown that he sighted at 1800/4 the following French ships in company steering south at 10 knots, about 150 miles west of Freetown: MONTCALM (This might have been BOUGAINVILLE class) possibly an A.M.C. and a S/M. The two former flew French ensign and had French flag painted on their sides.

Air Raid on Suez — One aircraft attacked Suez today, but caused no damage, Gladiators of the Egyptian Air Force went up but did not intercept.

Air Raid on Malta — There were two air raids on Malta today Slight damage is reported at Marsa XlOKK, and the R.A.F. claim three enemy fighters.

Air Raid on Matruh — 14 S 79's attacked Matruh today and damaged railway sidings.

Djibuti — It is reported from Aden that the Italian Armistice Commision entered Djibuti 31/8.

Air Attack on Assab — 6 Blenheims of the Indian Wing today attacked Assab Dock area and Naval Barracks All bombs fell in the target area but results were not observed.

B.S. 3½ Attacked — HOBART reports 8 attacks on B.S. 3½ by enemy aircraft between 0500 and 0945 G.M.T., no casualties.

Air Attack on SS. VELHO — SS. VELHO was again bombed at 0940Z yesterday while anchored at Komarin. She is undamaged, but half her crew have deserted.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.9.1940.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

18th C.S. in Humber "DELTA"

Fighter Command is providing protection Code word DELTA (C. in C., Nore 0108/5 0103/5, 1118/5)

Plymouth, A.A.Defence

Asking for more Bofors guns (C. in C., W.A. 1704/5)

Dover Harbour

WAR SEPOY to be sunk forthwith to block western entrance. Second ship will be provided when possible (1st S.L. 2041/5 A.A.defences to be restored to their oringinal scale (D. o L.D. 1955/5)

Policy

Rescue ~~Trip~~ Tugs in N.W. Approaches

N.O.i/c Greenock has taken over responsibility for operation of rescue tugs for salvage purposes in N.W. Approaches. (C. in C., W.A., 2317/5)

1st M.L. Flotilla

To be sailed fm Sheerness forthwith and placed under Command of C. in C., Nore. (1st S.L. 2359/5to C. in C., W.A C. in C., Nore.)

Movements

Movements

D. 12

Your 2101/4 and my 0107/5 Remain with convoy until GODETIA rejoins or as long as possible. Refuel at Londonderry and rejoin (C. in C., W.A., 0853/5)

DOUGLAS

Re sailing. My 1723/31/8 for 4/9 recd. 6/9. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1059/5)

AURORA
CARDIFF
"RIVAL"

Request fighter protection daylight 6/9 until arrival at Sheerness about 0900/6 Code word "RIVAL" (C. in C., Nore, 1134/5) WIVERN & WILDSWAN to R.V. with them near Humber L.V. (C. in C., Nore 1314/5)

Dover Patrols

Night 5/6 (V.A.Dover 1227/5)

SKEENA

At 1500 alter course 20° to starboard altering course 0200/6 to pass through 57° N., 14° W., (C. in C., W.A. 1330/5)

CHEVREUIL

Re taking over by Free French crew. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1424/5)

/Orkneys.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.9.1940
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements-Contd.

Orkneys	Positions & Movements. (A.C.O.S. 1551/5)
Northern Patrol	Names of 7 trawlers at present occupying N.P. Trawler line (A.C.O.S. 1614/5)
SHEFFIELD	Route to Clyde (C. in C., W.A. 1617/5)
WORCESTERSHIRE	To arrive Belfast 1400/7 (to refit) (F.O.C.N.P. 1720/5)
Home Fleet Steaming Signal	Keep steam at 2½ hours notice. (C. in C., H.F. 1231/5 to H.F.)
Harwich Force	Night dispositions and movements to 1200/6 (F.O. Harwich Force, 1751/5)
ANTELOPE AMAZON CHITRAL	R.V. in 54° 0' N., 15° 0' W., 0700/8 for inward escort to Clyde (F.O.C.N.P. 2315/5)

Operations

Operation D.F.	Intend to proceed with NELSON, FURIOUS, BONAVENTURE and 6 D.F. at 0900/6 passing west of Orkneys and Shetlands through 061° 44' N., 003° 00' W., and reaching 062° N., 001° E at 0450/7. FURIOUS will then fly off striking force comprising 9 Skuas and 12 Swordfish to attack all shipping on Norwegian Coast between latitudes 062° 50' N., and 061° 00' N., the aircraft returning to Hatston via Sumburgh. Ships will return to Scapa arriving either late p.m./7 or a.m./8. Request you inform H.Q.C.C. of this operation whose short title is D.F. (C. in C., H.F.)
Gunfire	Heavy explosions from gunfire audible to S.E. (N.O.i/c Newhaven 092[illegible]/5

/B.A.S. 3....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.9.1940
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements-Contd.

Orkneys	Positions & Movements. (A.C.O.S. 1551/5)
Northern Patrol	Names of 7 trawlers at present occupying N.P. Trawler line (A.C.O.S. 1614/5)
SHEFFIELD	Route to Clyde (C. in C., W.A. 1617/5)
WORCESTERSHIRE	To arrive Belfast 1400/7 (to refit) (F.O.C.N.P. 1730/5)
Home Fleet Steaming Signal	Keep steam at 2½ hours notice. (C. in C., H.F. 1231/5 to H.F.)
Harwich Force	Night dispositions and movements to 1200/6 (F.O. Harwich Force, 1751/5)
ANTELOPE AMAZON CHITRAL	R.V. in 54° 0' N., 15° 0' W., 0700/8 for inward escort to Clyde (F.O.C.N.P. 2315/5)

Operations

Operation D.F.	Intend to proceed with NELSON, FURIOUS, BONAVENTURE and 6 D.F. at 0900/6 passing west of Orkneys and Shetlands through 061° 44' N., 003° 00' W., and reaching 062° N., 001° E at 0450/7. FURIOUS will then fly off striking force comprising 9 Skuas and 12 Swordfish to attack all shipping on Norwegian Coast between latitudes 062° 50' N., and 061° 00' N., the aircraft returning to Hatston via Sumburgh. Ships will return to Scapa arriving either late p.m./7 or a.m./8. Request you inform H.Q.C.C. of this operation whose short title is D.F. (C. in C., H.F.)
Gunfire	Heavy explosions from gunfire audible to S.E. (N.O.i/c Newhaven 0922/5

/B.A.S. 3....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.9.1940.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

B.A.S. 3. Iceland

Sailed (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0930/5) Propose VERSATILE and VIMY should part company with convoy B.A.S. 3 in 60° N., and proceed to Scapa (C. in C., H.F. 0944/5) Comply with C. in C., H.F., 0944/5 (C. in C., W.A. 1509/5 to VERSATILE, VIMY) Your 2237/4 (re-embarkation of troops for Iceland) concur (F.O.C.N.P., 1155/5) PINZON returned Clyde with engine trouble (F.O.i/c Greenock 1345/5) Your 0944. Concur. (C. in C., W.A. 1223/5 to C. in C., H.F.)

Patrol by VENETIA & VESPER

Tonight Thursday establish patrol in Q.Z.S. 41 between 54D buoy and Smiths Knoll bell buoy until F.S. 72 probably reaching Smiths Knoll about 2359 has passed then move southward to cover the convoy. Keep good lookout for E-boats. Keep clear of 20th D.F. proceeding north by Q.Z.S. 42 and due Smiths Knoll about 0515/6. Any later information about progress of F.S. 72 will be signalled. (C. in C., Nore 1544/5)

RUBIS

Orders to leave Dundee p.m./5 for Anti-U/Boat patrol on line ~~extending 050° and~~ 050° and 230° extending 20 miles on either side of 55° 30' N., 2° 20' E., (V.A.(S) 1051/5)

TIGRIS

After sunset 6/9 proceed to resume patrol to W and S of Ile de Groix. Adjust your distance from Shore as circumstances require. (F.O. (S) 1328/5)

PORPOISE

My 1439/29/8. PORPOISE is being directed to remain on patrol on completion of F.D. 26. On completion of her patrol PORPOISE will proceed to Falmouth for onward escort to Clyde. Outfit of mines will therefore not be required at Plymouth. (V.A.S. 1702/5)

Positions

& movements for 24 hours at 0600/6 in Area A (V.A.S. 1729/5) In Area B. (V.A.S. 1734/5)

/Various S/Ms.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.9.1940.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines-Contd.

Various Submarines — Orders. Route. (F.O. S/Ms 1449/5, 0914/6 Capt. (S) 7145/5)

Movements — (F.O.i/c Greenock 1754/5)

TETRARCH TRITON (Proceeding to Medtn.) — After parting company with CUTTY SARK in position F.P.M. 7/9 TETRARCH and TRITON proceed submerged by day to patrol for about 48 hours TETRARCH between 49° 0' N 7° 30' W., and 47° 10' N., 8° 30' W., TRITON between 49° 20' N., 8° 20' W., and 48° N., 11° W. Object to interrupt U-Boats on passage to a from Lorient and Atlantic trade routes. TETRARCH and TRITON then proceed on surface by routes previously ordered so as to arrive position K 0800 G.M.T./13. No repetition no bombing restrictions will be in force. (V.A.S. 2304/5, F.O. S/Ms 1449/5)

E-Boats

Re+ firing star shell to illuminate attacking E-Boats (C. in C., Rosyth 1841/5)

British Air Activity

Terneuzen — Attack on concentration of barges 2050-2115/4. Bombs dropped in dock and green flashes and explosions seen. Target visible to all attacking aircraft by parachute flares, no barges seen. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 0240/5)

E-Boats in Boulogne to be attacked — X884 5/9. P.R.U. reconnaissance 50 E-Boats in Boulogne Harbour last night Evening reconnaissance to be carried out by Coastal Command. If reconnaissance establishes presence of concentration of E-Boats in Boulogne Harbour, Bomber and Coastal Command Blenheim bombers should carry out heavy attack. Attacks should commence as early as possible after first dark. Commands to concert regarding information and arrangements. (Air Min. 1145/5)

/Air Searches.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.9.1940.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Operations.

Air Searches — for 6/9 includes R.C. of coast of Norway 61° N., to 63° W., as late as possible (C. in C., Rosyth 1844/5, H.Q.C.C. 2000/5)

Shipping at Liverpool — 6-8 Sept and 20-25 Sept. Special protection to be afforded (H.Q.F.C. 1915/5 to 12 group)

Hampdens at Iceland — Re using them for a R.C. (N.O.i/c Iceland 2008/5) Not approved at present. (Duty Captain 0112/6)

BoulogneHarbour Attacked — Attacked 2045-2116/4 All bombs fell in target area in centre of docks basins. Motor Boats could not be seen. Heavy accurate A.A. fire. Two large fires started (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 2350/5)

Enemy Air Operations

Raid on Chatham — Raid on Dockyard by single enemy planes about 2100/4. 5 H.E. bombs fell in cutting to railway between Dockyard and Gillingham station. Track not damaged but line closed for repairs. Some damage in Victualling Yard. (C. in C., Nore, 1255/5, Supt. C.E. 1755/5)

MELBOURNE STAR Attacked — Shelled 54° 16' N., 16° 26' W., (Plymouth W/T station 1445/5)bombed 1150 54° 16' N., 16° 26' W., Machine gunned 1154 54° 24' N., 16° 17' W., (Valentia Radio) (Lands End Radio, Port Patrick Radio) Still attacked (Valentia 1200/5) Heinkel now flying West (Valentia 1209/5) One bomb hit forecastle head one man injured (Valentia Radio 1226/5) May have hit him he flew very low. (Valentia 1214/5)

AEGEON Damaged — Greek, from Convoy O.B. 209 bombed 1030/5 damaged. Now at Holyhead will be ready to proceed docking a.m./6 (N.O.I.C. Holyhead 2001/5)

/Attacks.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.9.1940.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Operations-Contd.

Attacks on London

During the three air attacks last night no serious damage was done and there were no Military Casualties in my area. (F.O.I.C. London. 1145/5)

My 1145/5 written report not considered necessary, about 12 incendiary bombs fell in Royal Albert Dock causing small fires which were easilly extinguished. A considerable number of H.E. Bombs fell in river near Tilbury, and a few ashore but none in docks. Many incendiary bombs fell in docks and started fires but all are now extinguished and damage unimportant. There were no casualties. 1301 ends. (1625/5)

Thames Haven Oil Tanks Fired

At 1515/5 bombs set alight five tanks at Thames-Haven containing approx. 7000 tons of various oils, these are situated to leeward (East of installation) Fire still burning internally. No possibility of fire under control before dark. Request air protection. Bomb wrecked Electric Power Station. Ample fire fighting appliances on the spot. At Shorehaven bomb wrecked one empty tank. No casualties to personnel. (F.O.i/c London, 1930/5, 1737/5)

As three oil tanks at Thames Haven are still burning, and will act as a mark for further attacks tonight, request special close protection may ne provided. (C. in C., Nore, 1908/5)

Lodge Hill Damaged 3/9

R.N.A. Depot, Lodge Hill, some damage caused by bombs 3/9 (Supt. C.E. Chatham 1716/5)

Newton Noyes Mine Depot. Llanion Oil Tanks

Enemy A/C probably 3 dropped bombs near Newton Noyes Mine Depot and Llanion oil tanks at 0131/5. Slight damage to windows of old lodge and police canteen -at Newton Noyes, no casualties to Admiralty personnel. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1236/5)

/Dover U/P.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.9.1940.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Operations-Contd.

Dover U/P batteries fired 60 rounds at 1050/5 on two M.E. 109s one of which bombed examination vessel off eastern arm. Only one bomb dropped, a bad miss. Second aircraft was 30 secons astern of first one and by the time it arrived barrage was fully operative. This aircraft dived under barrage to within 50 feet of sea level making no attempt to bomb. It was last seen at low altitude making for French coast. (V.A.Dover 1926/5)

Mining

Mining Lighter M.3. — Fouled boom. Sailing delayed (F.O. Humber, 0645/5)

Operation M.S. B. — Requesting Navigational aids (C. in C., Nore 0830/5) to F.O.i/c Harwich) Requesting fighter protection for INTREPID, ICARUS, IMPULSIVE 1230/5 until dark proceeding from Humber to -Downs. Code word "PARTS" (C. in C., Nore 0852/5 to H.Q. F.C.) Requesting fighter protection for return to Humber (c. in C., Nore 0914/5) Orders for fighter protection (H.Q. F.C. 1140/5) Cover for operation M.S.B. is being provided as follows.
M.T.B's 71 and 72 patrolling from 'U' buoy South Falls North Eastward and M.T.B's 29,32 and 6 patrolling near 'K' Buoy Cap Gris Nez. (V.A.Dover 1551/5)

Aircarft Minelaying off Buchan Ness — Master of SS STROMSO FIRTH. Methil to Inverness. Reports sighting 2 suspected German seaplanes at 2055/4 in position 57° 33' North 1° 44' West which dropped suspected mines from 100 feet. (F.O.i/c Invergordon 1242/5)

Belfast — One small red mine detonated by LL 260° 100 yards from wreck of TROUTPOOL (N.O.i/c Belfast 1630/5)

ESMERALDA — Echo sounding yacht. Asking for her to search certain suspected positions of mines at Plymouth on completion of her work at Falmouth. (C. in C., W.A. 1856/5)

/Harwich.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.9.1940.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

Harwich	Trawler exploded mine in "O" sweep in 51° 55' N., 1° 40' E., at 1002 (F.O.i/c Harwich 1857/5)
Loch Ewe	It is possible that magnetic mines were dropped by aircraft in entrance to Loch Ewe night 29/30 Aug. (A.C.O.S. 1907/5)
Milford Haven	Re-magnetic mine recovered in trawl, apparently used as a bomb. (F.O.i/c Milford Haven 1917/5)
Rosyth Leith Granton	Rosyth closed west of Inchkeith East Gate to Oxcars Gate. Port of Leith and Granton closed. (C. in C., Rosyth 2345/5) Tactics of minelaying aircraft 2245/5 (C. in C., Rosyth 1227/6)

Enemy Intelligence

Delfzijl	P.R.U. 4/9 shows over 100 barges in Delfzijl harbour and as many more in adjacent canal. Groups of motor boats exercising in river appear remarkable for enclosed structure high compared with length. (P.I.U. 0358/5)
Hamburg	4/9 Considerable increase of m.v. tonnage since 21/7 Details of ships. (P.I.U. 0558/5)
Flushing	P.R.U. 4/9 shows concentration of 76 small ships avarage length 150 ft. at anchor in West Scheldt off Flushing (P.I.U. Heston 0 810/5)
Dunkirk & Boulogne	Aircraft report (Chatham (AC.H.Q. 0830/5)
E. Scheldt	P.R.U. 1130/5 shows movements of 52 small barges and self propelled units for most part in pairs lashed together through Krammer Volkerrak towards E.Scheldt. Movement in reverse directions is considerable. (P.I.U. 1920/5)

/Havre.....

MOST SECRET

5.9.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence-Contd.

Havre

P.R.U. 5/9 shows the 6 T.B's still present in Havre as reported from sortie of 4/9. (Air Min. 2031/5)

MARION

German troop ship (not listed in Lloyds Index) 1200 tons torpedoed by British submarine in Kattegat p.m./2. Over 3000 estimate drowned. Also another rather smaller troopship, name unknown, was torpedoed about a fortnight ago. (Reuter, Stockholm)

Movements of Naval Forces indicated

German W/T traffic has been abnormal since midnight and gives indications of
(a) Considerable movement of Naval Forces on the Norwegian Coast. A Naval unit was off Bergen at 1510/5.
(b) Intended movement of Naval units in the Skaggerak.
(c) Activity in the Helder area and probable further movement of small craft to the South.
The main North Sea operational frequency 5915 k/cs has been used on Norwegian Coast. (D.D.I.C. 1646/5)

By D/F at 1510/5. Position of unknown enemy unit was in the vicinity of Bergen. Probably destroyer or larger warship. (D.D.I.C., 1556/5)

MOST SECRET

5.9.1940
Thursday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping
O.B. 209	Sailed 1330/5, escort WINCHELSEA, HEARTSEASE, CLARKIA. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1456/5) List and details. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1457/5)
A.P.	My 1132/28. Sailing postponed (date) SHEFFIELD to replace NEWCASTLE as ocean escort and to be sailed for Clyde to join. (D.O.D. (H) 1338/5) Route. (C. in C., W.A., 1643/5)
H.G. 43	Amend my 2102/4. (F.O.C.N.A. 1000/5) Details (F.O.C.N.F., 2350/5)
S.L.A. 44.	Passing Cape Wrath, due Scapa R.V. 1030 6. (SANDWICH 2100/5) Position (Wick Radio, 0640/6)
O.B. 208 O.B.C. 208	To alter course after dark. (C. in C., W.A. 1910/5) Position at 1122 (C. in C., W.A. 1913/5)
H.X. 73	Route. (D.T.D., 1117/5)
S.L. 46	Sailing telegram, amended (D.T.D., 1745/5)
O.G. 43	Polish LUBLIN to join after collision damage repaired (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1121/5)
H.X. 72	Advance sailing telegram (S.C.N.O. Halifax 1425/5)
B.H.X. 72	Advance. (N.C.S.O. December 1201/4 recd. 0513/5)
Bristol Channel	My 1402/30/6. Ships in convoy are to be given a route to Barry Roads for onward routeing to Bristol Channel ports. A route should also be given to Milford Haven. Stragglers bound for Bristol Channel ports are to proceed to Milford Haven for onward routeing. (D.T.D. 1141/5)
BRITISH PROGRESS	Time of arrival amended to 0530/5 (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 0114/5)
PINZON	To sail after defects in next convenient O.B.Convoy, breaking off for Reykjavik (D.O.D. (H) 1959/5)
HERPORT	My 2000/4. Owing to drastic measures, HERPORT now sailing (N.C.S.O. Funchal 1711/5)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.9.1940.
Thursday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

LUBLIN	Polish, destination Gibraltar, did not sail 0940 following damage by collision with PHILOTIS 3/9 (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1121/5)
PINZON (B.A.S. 3.)	Returned to Clyde with engine trouble (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1345/5)
GLEANER	Passing C. Wrath 2100. Speed 9½ knots due defective boilers. (C. Wrath 2055/5
LAGOSIAN	(Bombed 3/9) gutted by fire and damaged internally beyond repair (D.O.R)
GARLAND	Boiler defects, taken in tow by GRIFFIN, later proceeded on one boiler. (D.O.R.)
FILEFJELL	due Capetown 31/8 from Abadan not arrived.
BERAKIT ex VOGTLAND	Dutch, due Capetown about 1/9 not arrived (S.O. (1) Capetown1134/5)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.9.1940.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation Menace

Freetown Arrivals

Force M., SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA, convoy A.P. 3. dates of arrival Freetown. High Officers- names in WESTERNLAND, DEVONSHIRE, and ETTRICK (D.O.D. (F) to C. in C., S.A., 1105/5) (See Operations Volume)

AUSTRALIA

Sailing 0915/6. Time of arrival Freetown (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1852/5)

North Atlantic

VIDETTE

Escorting ROYAL SCOTSMAN, sailing 0600 to join you. (F.O.C.N.A. to WELLINGTON 0423/5)

SHEFFIELD

Sails 0200/5. Route. Request onward routeing instructions. (F.O.C.N.A. to C. in V., W.A., 0140/5)

French Convoy

French Convoy 6 ships escorted by French sloop SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA. (? French s/M LA PSYCHE) 333 degrees 33° N., 23° W., 93, course 180° 11 knots at 2000 G.M.T. (MALOJA 2043/5, 1641/6)

Destroyers

Gibraltar arrival 2047/5. GARLAND, GRIFFIN, GALLANT, GREYHOUND, HOTSPUR (S.O.I. Gib., 2100/5)

South Atlantic

Force M.

Reply to C. in C., S.A. 0918/4 (D.O.D. (F) 1105/5) See Operation Volume.

BOUGAINVILLE

My 1800/4. Report immediately if French ship BOUGAINVILLE sighted (C. in C., S.A. 0111z/5 to CUMBERLAND, ARGUS)
Your 1559/4. Action approved. Endeavour to prevent any interference by French naval forces against operations of Gen. de Gaulle's adherents, but avoid taking initiative in opening fire. BOUGAINVILLE reported by Consul General Leopoldville 3/9 en route Dakar to Point Noire (C. in C., S.A. to DELHI 1115/5)

/French Ships.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.9.1940.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

French Ships

Master SS BARON BELLHAVEN arrived at Freetown reports following French ships sighted at five to six miles range in position 7° 38' N., 15° 33'W., at 1800/4 Ships were in company and on course 180° approximately and speed 10 knots.
(a) Light cruiser MONTCALM class with two funnels, identified from silhouette
(b) Possibly armed merchant cruiser passenger type 5000 tons with a gun fore and aft.
(c) One submarine.
(a) and (b) flew French ensign and (b) had French flag painted on his sides. Considered that (a) could easily be confused with BOUGAINVILLE class sloop. (C. in C., S.A., 1315/5)

W.S. 3.

Escort arrangements under consideration Request whether arrival of DORSETSHIRE at Freetown can be anticipated (D.O.D. (F) 1752/5)

French Africa

Situation report French Africa, No 6. L.Chad. Vichy Government have issued a a degree appointing Chazelas as Governor in place of Eboue. P. Mid-Congo. French ship JEAN LABODE, capable of being a raider or S/M supply ship, left Pointe Noire on the night of 2/9. (D.N.I. 1919/5)

Overdue Ships

FILEFJELL due capetown 31/8 from Abadan, Dutch BERAKIT ex VOGTLAND due Capetown about 1/9 not arrived (S.O.I., Capetown, 1134/5)

Mediterranean

3. C.S.

3rd C.S. and A.A. cruisers to remain in company A.S. 3 till dark 5/9. (C. in C., Med., 0601/5)

VOLO
CORNWALL

Unloading proceeding with little interuption by air raid alarms. (V.A.Malta 0029/5)

BARHAM

Admty. 1747/4. Still hold view expressed in my 1304/15/7. In regard to BARHAM her allocation to Med. Fleet is consistent with dictates of Homogeneity and therefore to be recommended. (C. in C., H.F. 1104/5)

/Consider.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.9.1940.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

BARHAM, Contd. — Consider most necessary for BARHAM join Med. Fleet. Reasons. Defects of MALAYA and RAMILLIES. 2 Italian battleships at sea during "Hats" (C. in C., Med 1705/5)

Syria, Oil Supply — C. of S. telegram No 4 to C. in C's M.E. Agreed that the supply of one fortnight's oil requirements to Syria is politically desirable. C. in C's M.E., to be consulted before any further supplies considered. (1st S.L. to C. in C., Med., 1351/5)

Situation, Casablanca — Following reported by BRIDGEWATER from reliable British informant recently arrived at Lagos. French ships seen Casablanca 14/15 August. French Battleship JEAN BART (incomplete) French submarine parent ship JULES VERNE, destroyer T. 21,22,23,28 and 103, large destroyers X 112, 113 sloop A 13, one other sloop and seven submarines. German and Italian Armistice commissions were then at Casablanca. (C. in C., S.A. 1012/5)

L.L.Vessels — Advantage of additional LL Whalers or trawlers fitted with asdics, and oil burning ships preferred. (V.A. Malta 2241/5)

Alexandria — Plans if it became untenable. Alternative use of Haifa and Port Said (C. in C., Med., 1101/5) See Mediterranean Volume)

Operation "Hats" — Arrivals 4/9, MALAYA and 4 destroyers. Arrivals 5/9 C. in C., Med. in WARSPITE, VALIANT, EAGLE, ORION, ILLUSTRIOUS, SYDNEY and destroyer. (S.O.I. Alexandria, 1100/5)

Yugoslav Oil Imports — Yugoslav Govt. concerned at refusal of Navicerts for oil import vital for their railways. By withholding we are definitely damaging German and Italian interest. (N.A. Belgrade, 1200/5)

/Local Defence.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.9.1940.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Local Defence

Re despatch of kites, bombs etc., in BRECONSHIRE. (D. of L.D. 1511/6 to C. in C., Med.)

B.N. 5.

No oilers required in B.N.5. for Mediterranean Fleet. (C. in C., Med., 2205/5)

Enemy Intelligence

From Admiralty. Following from a source in Lisbon graded C. 4. forwarded for information.
Germany will occupy France and particularly Marseilles on pretext Fdain is losing control. Axis agents already sent to Tunis and Algeria and possibly Morocco to incite populations against de Gaulle and represent French Government as having collapsed.

German troops will leave Southern Italy and Sardinia in fast craft by night landing in Algeria and Tunis to co-operate with Italians.
Combined attack on Egypt will follow from West about 14/9.
Italy will also attack Greece
On the East, Germany will, through Roumania, attack Turkey Palestine and pipe lines, and possible Egypt.
Not stated whether all these movements would be simultaneous.
Eventual objective is seizure of Persian Gulf pipe lines. Attacks on England will be continued to prevent despatch of forces to threatened.area.
(D.N.I. 1928/5).

Malta Raids

Malta Air Intelligence Report up to 1800 hours 5/9. All time local. 1015 to 1045 enemy formations approx. 8 bombers at about 16,000 feet and 17 fighters at 22,000 feet flew over island from north and after circling Grand Harbour, Luca and Hal Far returned north. At same time, another formation of approx. 17 fighters circled over Grand Harbour apparently to attract our fighters away. Our fighters attacked and claim 3 enemy fighter aircraft, of which one CR 42 confirmed seen crashing into sea about 5 miles off Grand Harbour, the other two if not destroyed severely damaged.

/Object.....

MOST SECRET

5.9.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Air

Malta Raids, Contd.

Object of raid obscure since no bombs appear to have been dropped. 1000 to 1100 hours A/S patrol by SWORDFISH but this interupted by air raid. Second raid in progress 1800 hours, some bombs reported dropped, details follow. (H.Q., R.A.F. Malta 1650/5)

Two raids 5/8 First between 1030 and 1045 by eight bombers and two formations of fighters about 17 in each formation. No bombes dropped. Three fighters claimed by Hurricanes. Second at about 1800 on Marsaxlokk by JU 87 B dive bombers, damage beleived slight. (N.O.I.C., Malta 2217/5) (Governor to W.O. 2228/5)

Fulmar Reserves

Admty. 1154/16/8. Request pruvisionn of I.R. Fulmars for 806 Sqdn. and 805 Sqdn. as it is formed may be hastened. (C. in C., Med. 2025/3, recd. 1413/5) (See Mediterranean Volume)

Suez Attack

One enemy plane flew over Suez 5,000 ft at 1425C today. 4 bombs reported dropped in vicinity of oil refineries. No damage, 1 camel only killed. No air raid warning received. (S.B.N.O. Suez. Canal Area, 1651/5) Egyptian R.A.F identified plane as Savoia S 79. (S.B.N.O., Suez Canal Area 1916/5) H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. Operational Summary No 88. (1048/6) says 6 bombs dropped.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.9.1940.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Patrol

Departure, HOLLY, TARTAR, PARRAMATTA for patrol at 0240Z. (N.O.I.C. Aden 0244Z/5)

Troop Convoys

Disposal of personnel of convoys R.S. 5. W.S. 2. and Apology (D. of S.T. 1949/5 to P.S.T.O., Egypt.)

HOBART A/C Attacks

HOBART escorting B.S. 3½ reports attack by single A/C at 0506Z/5 in 15.25 N., 41.46 E., 2 bombs nearest 170 yard from -ROHNA. No damage (C. in C., E.I. 0800/5) My 0800 HOBART reports 5 attacks between 0815Z and 0845Z. No damage (C. in C., E.I., 1024Z/5)

Assab Bombed

Following for 24 hours ending 1500 G.M.T. 5/9. 6 Blenheims Indian Wing attacked Assab Naval Barracks and Dock Area. All bombs in target area large column of smoke seen no other results observed due to bad visibility.

HOBART A/C Attacks

3 Blenheims 203 Squadron individual escort patrol convoy B.N. 4. One Blenheim 203 Squadron despatched to cover convoy B.S. 3½ on receipt HOBART's signal notifying two attacks by enemy aircraft. On arrival over B.S. 3½ 0850 observed 5 S. 79's bombing convoy gave chase to Eritean Coast but could only close to 8000 yards. 3 enemy aircraft suspected hit slight damage our aircraft. HOBART reported 8 attacks on B.S. 3½ by enemy aircraft 0500 to 0945 varying 1 to 5 aircraft per attack. All times G.M.T. no casualties. (A.H.Q., Aden 1844/5)

Italian Airforce

Precis of air Ministry appreciation of possible scale of Italian Air attacks in Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. (D.O.D.(F) 1806/5)

Djibuti

S.N.O. Red Sea reports French soldiers and others arriving by dhows from Djibuti stated that Italian Armistice Commision and military entered Djibuti 31/8. (C. in C., E.I. 1804Z/5)

/Aden, Air Menace....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.9.1940.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

Aden, Air Menace

Sure source indicates hight probability of carefully organised attacks on shipping in Aden Harbour in near future. (H.Q., Middle East Command. 0752/5)

VELHO Bombed

SS VELHO again bombed 0940Z/4 whilst anchored Kamarin. 2 waves of fire and four A/C dropped 27 high explosives. No damage, no casualties known, but half her crew now deserted. (C. in C., Red Sea Force, 0629Z/5)

B.N. 4.

Aden Section, sailing telegram (N.C.S.O Aden, 0514Z/4 recd. 1336/5)

China

Allied Ships Indo China

Admiral Terraux wishes to be able to report names of Dutch and Norwegian ships visiting Indo-China to Vichy as otherwise Vichy will be suspicious of apparent lack of shipping visiting Indo China.
Visits mainly of British and other Allied ships will not be revealed to Vichy.
In order that Dutch and Norwegian ships may not be inconvenienced he asks that names and dates of arrival may be signalled well in advance so that Vichy permission or otherwise may be received before loading has started in Port of departure. If reply was negative Admiral T. would request these ships not to come.
Meantime no names will be signalled to Vichy but Admiral T emphasized necessity of quick agreement and begged that you would help him reach it in our mutual interests. (L.O.Saigon, 0400/5) Decision see 0603Z/6.

TENSAN MARU

Shanghai's 0809/4. Vessel in question was intercepted by SCOUT at about 2300 H/ 11/8, proceeding down centre of Lema Channe SCOUT took following action:-
(a) Called up (corrupt group) Lahore (corrupt group) commencing from about 2 miles and could get no intelligible reply.
(b) Closed from northward at 15 knots, passed under stern, turned on a parallel course and then turned away.

/SCOUT.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.9.1940.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

China-Contd.

TENZEN MARU-Contd.

SCOUT did not close to less that three cables, and kept abaft beam of Japanese vessel. (c) During (b) SCOUT illuminated Japanese vessel for total of five minutes with searchlight in an endeavour to identify her.

2. SCOUT could see no sign of naval ensign.

3. Consider action of SCOUT entirely correct observing German minelayers may appear in these waters at any moment, and without careful examination aided by searchlight it is impossible to distinguish between peaceful merchant vessel and disguised minelayer. Furthermore hoisting of Japanese naval ensign can be no guarantee that ship is not a German minelayer in disguise.

4. Suggest Japanese authorities be informed to above effect and requested to instruct their vessels to pass further from Hong Kong if they object to being illuminated by searchlight.

(Cdre. i/c Hong Kong 1057Z/5 to C. in C., China)

America & West Indies

S.C. 4.

Your 1841Z/4, re escort. Yes DEPTFORD due 6/9. (C. in C., W.A. to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa 0940/5)

ACASTA

Your 1726/31. (crew refuse to sail without guns) Admty 1055/28, supply of guns to Bermuda for use i allied vessels, may be regarded as sufficient guarantee. Circumstances to be reported to N.S.H.Q, Ottawa when ship leaves Trinidad, (D.T.D. 1047/5 to N.C.S.O. Trinidad)

U.S Bases

Presumed U.S.A. will look at St. Georges as well as Grassy Bay. Interesting to know which localities they are most interested in. (1st S.L. 0044/5 to C. in C., A.W.I.)

/ Bermuda.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.9.1940.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

Bermuda arrival U.S.S. ST LOUIS with Naval and Military Mission. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1213/5)

U.S. Destroyer Crews — My 1140/4 and C. in C., W.A. 1727/4. C. in C., W.A., requested to sail DUKESS OF ATHOLL from Liverpool 11/9 to R.V. with REVENGE from Clyde who will escort her to Halifax. Fighter protection code word "Olive" (D.O.D. (H) 1336/5)

O. 14. — Submarine O.14 tp proceed to Bermuda unescorted and direct route. (C. in C., A.W.I. -to S.N.O. Curacoa 1112/5)

Canadian Troops — Numbers to embark at Halifax on a certain date. Request particulars of ships available. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1533/5)

Australia

Convoy U.S. 4. — Route CANBERRA escorting (N.C.S.O. Fremantle 0915Z/5) CANBERRA and U.S. 4. left Fremantle 0355Z/5 for Colombo. (A.C.N.B 1600Z/5)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.9.1940.
Thursday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

USA RAMO — Loading 500 tons Spanish Coal. (Consul, Vigo 2005/5)

BRAKE — Again discharging lubricating oil quay (Consul Vigo 2005/5)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

CELENO — Arrived Varna with 5000 tons petroleum 4/9. (D.S. 367)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

5.9.40.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

AVOCETA — British, 3442 tons, reported unsuccessfully attacked by submarine off Portuguese Coast. Submarine fired 2 shots which missed. AVOCETA fired 4 shells and is believed to have hit submarine's periscope. (Reuter message, The Times, 5/9).

SEVERN LEIGH — British, 5242 tons, 10 survivors landed today at Leverburgh, Harris, from SEVERN LEIGH, torpedoed 23/8. No further details yet. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1714/5). Was in convoy OA.200, nearly 500 miles W. by N. of Fastnet Rock. Survivors were 13 days in an open boat. (D.S. 367)(D.O.R. 6/9).

TUNA — Submarine TUNA, 56.26 N., 0.43 W., attacked with 2 torpedoes at 0301/5. Undamaged. (D.S.366).

Submarines Reported

0319 — 59.30 N., 19.30 W., indefinite position. (D.S. 366)(D.D.I.C. 0345/5).

0155 — TUNA's contact (see 4/9). JACKAL to R.V. with VORTIGERN off May Island 0630 and proceed to patrol west of Gap A. TUNA leaves position one hour before daylight to return to Rosyth Aircraft to search. (C. in C., Rosyth, 0155/5, 0616/5). Correct position 56.17 N., 01.03 W, (C. in C., Rosyth, 1235/5).

1217 — U/B reported 47.50 N., 8.30 W. course W.N.W. speed 5 knots. Sighted by aircraft on Lisbon service. Sunderlands ordered to attack on return. (15 Group 1355/5) (D.C., 1454/5) (C. in C., W.A., 1457/5).

Bay of Biscay — In view of recent successful attacks by our submarines on U-boats in Bay of Biscay, TETRARCH and TRITON should be delayed on passage up to 48 hours to carry out additional patrols in this area. (D.O.D.(H) 1723/5).

0125/2 — 56.18 N., 02.20 E., sighted. (A.1). (D.S.367).

MOST SECRET

5.9.40.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported (Contd.)

1515/5 — 58.41 N., 5.10 W., sighted by aircraft. (D.S. 367).

1219/5 — 56° to 58° M., 15° to 23° W., position indefinite (D.S. 367).
59° N., 25° W. position indefinite (D.S.367).

2124/5 — 200' S.W. of Lands End., position indefinite. (D.S. 367).

Estimated U-boat Dispositions — 1 in Western Approaches was in 49° N., 8° W. 1717/4.
3 or possibly 4 in N.W. Approaches of which
1 is N.W. or N. of Rockall within 80'
1 or 2 S. of S.E. of Rockall within 180'
1 East of 10° W.
1 about 59°30' N. 19°30' W. 0319/5
and possibly one about 25° W. between 55° N. and 57° N. last located in this area 1233/3.
2 off Firth of Forth.
(D.D.I.C. 1226/5).

Submarines Attacked

0301 — By submarine TUNA, 56.26 N., 0.43 W. Fired 3 torpedoes unsuccessfully at a U/b. Was also attacked herslef by another U/b. (D.S.366) (D.O.R. 5/9)(TUNA, 0301/5, C. in C., Rosyth, 0543/5, D.D.I.C., 1051/5). Correct position 56.17 N., 01.03 W. (JACKALL and VORTIGERN to search. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1235/5). Further report (V.A.S., 1846/5).

1111 — By aircraft with dive bombs, 56.22 N., 11.10 W. (Aircraft 233 Sqdn., 1111/5). WESTCOTT and SCIMITAR to attack. (C. in C., W.A., 1219/5, 1227/5).

2230/2 U/b sunk. — By TIGRIS, U/b sunk, outward bound off L'Orient, at 2230/2. TIGRIS has proceeded to patrol between Belle Isle and Ile d'Yeu. (D.O.R., 5/9).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.9.1940.
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

U.S.A.
Destroyers

The Navy Dept., Washington has made the necessary arrangements for the first group of 8 over-age destroyers to arrive at Halifax 7/9.

British Officers and Ratings have been sent to Halifax to take over the first group.

It is intended that the R.C.N. shall man 6 of the 50 destroyers.

It is reported in the Press today that certain British West Indian and Newfoundland bases will be leased to the U.S.A. in return for the destroyers.

Home Commands

18th C.S.
to come South

The 18th C.S. are to come South to counter possible invasion. MANCHESTER, SOUTHAMPTON and BIRMINGHAM left Rosyth today for the Humber.
Apart from AURORA at the Humber (sails for Harwich tonight) and CARDIFF which is ordered to leave the Nore Command, C. in C., Nore has none of the small cruisers which would be specially useful: GALATEA and FIJI are temporarily out of action.

Although ships of 18th C.S. have been removed from the operational control of C. in C., H.F. the latter considers he has a reversionary interest in them.

Convoy Attacked
By E-Boats

Convoy FS 71 escorted by two destroyers and a sloop was attacked by E-Boats off Great Yarmouth at 2300/4 and 5 ships were sunk.

Defence of Trade

The following changes have been decided upon in order to counter the heavy attacks now being made on our trade in the North Western Approaches.

(a) A separate Naval C. in C., with title C. in C., Western Approaches is to be established in charge of convoy operations in the North Western Approaches with H.Q. at Liverpool. C. in C., Plymouth will be a separate command.

/(b).....

1

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.9.1940.
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Defence of Trade, Contd.

(b) An advance fuelling base for escorts is to be established at Londonderry. A/A guns are being sent, and provision of balloon barrage is approved.

(c) A combined Area H.Q. is to be established at ~~Londonderry or~~ Liverpool.

(d) The routeing organisation is to be centralised in the Admiralty, in order to enable the maximum use to be made of the intelligence available.

(e) Escorts and air protection for shipping in the N.W. Approaches are to be increased

Enemy Agents Landed

4 enemy agents landed at 0400 today on the Kent coast from a rowing boat, with a wireless set, and were arrested.

Preparations for Invasion

Air reconnaissance today reports Lorient submarine base very active.
Off Cape Gris Nez at 1150 aircraft saw 110 large barges proceeding south with 2 escorting vessels. 50 vessels reported to be motorboats were sighted in line ahead on a S.W. course off Cape Gris Nez and were subsequently located at Boulogne. An increase in large concentrations at Flushing and Ostend was seen today: 12 newly arrived floating bridge sections were seen at Veere (E. side of Walcheren I) and some special troops landing rafts moving westward in Kiel Canal.

British Air Operations

Aircraft last night successfully attacked barges in the Beveland Canal. A number of hits in the target are claimed by Blenheims which attacked shipping and docks at Ostend; bombs were also dropped on the west side of Flushing Docks, Terneuzen; and a direct hit was obtained on the dock gates of the Bruges-Ostend Canal.
4 out of 5 Swordfish attacked barges at Terneuzen and obtained hits and are believed also to have destroyed a jetty.

/Between.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.9.1940.
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Operations-Contd.

Between 2217/and 2250 today aircraft successfully attacked Cherbourg harbour. Searchlights and haze prevented definite observation of results.

Our fighters today inflicted disproportionate losses on the enemy, destroying 52 aircraft (plus 19 probable and 22 damaged) British casualties were 17 aircraft and 6 pilots.

Search for Naval survivors west of Terschelling was unsuccessful.

Enemy Air Operations

Estonian SS JAAK (717 tons), empty, was sunk by near miss while at anchor off Southsea at 0132/4.
No damage was caused or casualties in the dock area.

In an air raid on Chatham at 2100 today slight damage was caused in the Dockyard and the railway line to the dockyard was blocked for some hours.

Mining

Operation M.S.A.

INTREPID, ICARUS and IMPULSIVE escorted by 6 M.T.B's last night laid mines near the South Goodwin Light Vessel to impede enemy troop transports making for Dover from the vicinity of Calais. Two further M.T.B's patrolled to Eastward of the South Falls to cover the operation.

It is reported that SS RIKKE (Danish) has been mined and sunk in the Little Belt.

Mines were exploded today off the Tyne and Tay

The master of the SS STROMSO FIRTH reports seeing 2 German seaplanes apparently dropping mines off Buchan Ness at 2055/4.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.9.1940.
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Operation "HATS" (Contd. from 2/9)

Air attack on the Fleet was carried out at 1600/2 by 7 aircraft. Two shot down by gunfire two by fighters. Remainder chased almost to Sicily and probably damaged. Days score 5 certain 4 damaged. One Fulmar forced landed Hal Far.
All ships were clear of Malta by 2130/2 and proceeded east MALAYA, EAGLE and CALCUTTA passing south of Crete and remainder through Kithera Straits. No enemy aircraft seen throughout 3/9.
Aircraft flown off to attack at 0345/4. WARSPITE, ILLUSTRIOUS, VALIANT and 10 Destroyers passed through Kaso Strait 0630.

Attack on Rhodes by F.A.A.

ILLUSTRIOUS reports explosion and large fire seen at Calato Barracks and ammunition dump and about 6 parked aircraft were bombed and probably destroyed Fire started in buildings followed by large explosion 6 minutes later. All aircraft returned. One Swordfish lost by accident flying off.

EAGLE reports hitting 2 main hangers at Maritsa, and set on fire petrol dump, barracks and workshops. Fighter opposition encountered. 4 Swordfish failed to return. One aircraft believed to have landed in Kaso Island.

Bombardment of Scarpanto

V.A.L.F. in ORION and SYDNEY bombarded Makri Yalo Aerodrome and Pegadia Bay in Scarpanto. No suitable target at latter so ORION withdrew after firing a few salvoes. SYDNEY plastered Makri Yalo thoroughly and also destroyed the only visible buildings.

2 E-Boats Sunk

Three E-Boats attacked SYDNEY but of these two were sunk by ILEX and one damaged. Two boats also in Bay retired without attacking.

Fleet was attacked between 1100 and 1500 by 3 or 4 formations but gunfire and fighters prevented accurate bombing. 2 enemy aircraft were shot down and at least 3 damaged

/Total.....

1

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.9.1940.
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Operation "HATS" Contd.

Total score between 30/8 and 4/9, 8 shot down, 6 damaged apart from those destroyed on the fround at Calato.

COVENTRY, CALCUTTA, NUBIAN and MOHAWK detailed to protect convoy A.S. 3 with 3rd C.S. in support. Convoy passed through Kaso Strait at 1700. It was sighted and bombed without result

The remainder of the Fleet returned to Alexandria 5/9.

GALLANT, GARLAND, GRIFFIN, GREYHOUND and HOTSPUR were attacked this afternoon, while returning to Gibraltar, by aircraft, without damage.

Foreign Stations

Guadeloupe

The local press of Dominica reports that feeling in Guadeloupe is mainly in our favour. C. in C., W.I. has asked whether he can take any useful action.

French Cameroons and Equatorial Africa

DELHI reports that the situation at Duala is satisfactory, though it is doubtful if the Free French will take any offensive action against other French, before the latter initiate hostilities. A boom barrage is being constructed and a battery is to be mounted.

At Libreville our cause is reported to be bad. French submarine SIDI-FERRUCH was located there 3/9.

The situation at Point Noire is reported both critical and vital. BOUGAINVILLE is said to be en route for Point Noire from Dakar, and Delhi is proceeding there tonight with 10 Free French officers, to arrive in advance of BOUGAINVILLE. She is ordered to prevent any interference by French Naval forces against General de Gaulle's adherents but is to avoid taking the initiative in opening fire.

/Indo-China.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.9.1940.
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Foreign Stations

Indo-China

The French Authorities at Saigon have given assurances that British and British chartered shipping will not be detained in Indo-China ports, and in return they ask for same assurance for French Ships at Singapore and Hong Kong. C. in C., China has, however, given orders that British and Allied ships are not to sail for Indo China ports until the situation clarifies and assurances are received that all allied ships are included in the guarantee.

Air Raid on Aden

Shipping in Aden harbour was attacked today by 3 enemy aircraft, but no damage was caused. One of our fighters intercepted without definite result.

South Atlantic Trade Defence

The problem of trade defence on the South Atlantic station has been investigated. Convoy will not be introduced until losses of ships sailing independently reduce trade to a greater extent than convoy would do, or until our losses seriously affect our carrying capacity. Unescorted group sailings are not recommended.

TENZAN MARU Incident

V.A. ~~Paresa~~/w amura has requested an explanation of the action of one of our destroyers in playing a searchlight on the Japanese Naval transport TENZAN MARU flying the Naval ensign, to establish her identity.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.9.1940.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Western Approaches Division of Command

The following changes have been decided upon in order to facilitate measures to counter the heavy attack on our trade.

(a) Establish a separate naval Commander-inChief in charge of convoy operations in North Western Approaches with headwauarters at Londonderry or Liverpool with the title of Commander-in-Chief Western Approaches. The Commander-inChief, Plymouth will be a separate command.

(b) Establish an advance fuelling base for escorts at Londonderry.

(c) Establish a combined area H.Q. at Londonderry or Liverpool.

(d) Centralise the routeing organisation in the Admiralty to enable the maximum use to be made of the intelligence available.

(e) Increase escorts and aircraft protecting shipping in North Western Approaches. (1st S.L. 0137/4)

U.S Destroyers

DUCHESS OF ATHOLL with 1400 Naval and other Personnel for Halifax will be ready sail from Liverpool on 11/9. Subject to repairs to G/D gear, REVENGE wil sail from Clyde as Ocean Escort. C. in C., W.A., requested date earliest date when A/S escort through U-Boat zone could be available. (D.O.D. H. 1140/4 to C. in C. W.A)
Escort available 11/9 (C. in C., W.A., 1727/4 to Adty.)

Polish Destroyer Division

BLYSKAWICA, BURZA and OURAGAN will form Polish Destroyer Division adminstered by C. in C., W.A. from 1/9.
GARLAND will join this Division on arrival in U.K. about mid-September. (D.O.D., H. 1810/4. A Message Name 810 A.Z.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.9.1940.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

18th C.S.
Ordered South

I agree with C. in C., H.F. that there is appreciable risk of damage in these waters to small ships no less than large, but to hit Germany hard by destroying an invading force we need gun fire and plenty of it. Cruisers give better L.A. and A.A. gunfire than destroyers they are less fragile and can counter enemy cruisers. If 18th C.S. are kept permanently some 400 miles from point where attack is likely and at far end of a narrow channel which is frequently mines they will not arrive in time when most needed. Sheerness and Southend are the anchorages held by C.S. 18 and other authorities to be the most secure and Approaches can be readily swept. I should prefer smaller cruisers than Southampton class if they were available. I have always kept 2nd C.S. at Humber because their H.A. Armament is weak and C.S. 18 has emphasised his preference for Sheerness if cruisers cannot safely be kept at Sheerness which may prove to be the case, it seems Navy must admit inability to defeat an invading force in these waters.
It must be assumed that enemy attacking at his selected moment will come in considerable strength. Admiralty guidence on these problems would be appreciated.
(C. in C. Nore, 1100/4 to Adty.)

Your 2211/3. There are many indications other than concentration of barges that arrangements for attempted invasion are mounted and that it will be in the South.
The movement of 18th C.S. South was in fact made at Admiralty suggestion.
(1stCS.L. 1053/4 to C. in C., H.F.)

Following is conclusion of Home Forces appreciation to be issued later. Begins.
It is evident that the Germans are at present engaged in trying to gain superiority over our fighter force. On the result of this attempt will depend their future action. If Hitler thinks that he has achieved a fair measure of superiority during the next few days a full scale invasion in small craft may be attempted within an area between Southwold and Shoreham and for some distance to either flank.

/This may.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.9.1940.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.-Contd.

This may be combined with feints and diversions elsewhere on land and sea. Conditions are most favourable about 12 or 13 September but possibility of change in present fair period may decide action any time after 6 September. After 13 Sept. conditions tend to deteriorate and any postponement beyond 20 Sept. would risk definite break in weather. Ends. (C. in C., Home Forces. 1155/4)

North Foreland
Dover

One Battery of four 5.5" guns to be mounted at N. Foreland and 2 Batteries at Dover. (D. of L.D. 1523/4)

Scapa.
Gun Defences

A.C.O.S. 1738/3 and C. in C., H.F. 1914/3 The assumption in C. in C.,'s 1914/3 is correct.
2. No proposals for reduction of Scapa Defences have been received from A.O.C. in C., F.C. or any other source.
3. As regards defences of Skaebrae and T Twatt, owing to very serious shortage of all types of A.A. guns A.O.C. in C., F.C. who has full control of A.A. defences and is well aware of this requirement, has been unable to supply additional guns. A.A. Command has now been directed to investigate whether protection can be provided from existing guns at Scapa without undue reduction of the gun density over the fleet anchorage. (V.C.N.S. 1826/4 to C. in C., H.F.)

18th C.S.
to come South

Asking for fighter protection 1245/4 to 0830/5 for MANCHESTER, SOUTHAMPTON, BIRMINGHAM from Rosyth to Nore. May be joined by 2 destroyers off Tees. Code word "QUEEN" (C. in C., Rosyth 0312/4 to F.C)
Defers sailing remain at 2½ hours' notice (C. in C., Nore 1021/4) JUPITER and KELVIN to leave Humber 1600/4 to escort This leaves Humber without any destroyers. C.S. 18 detach JUPITER and KELVIN and return to Humber as early as practicable. (C. in C., Nore 1102/4)
Asking for fighter protection daylight to dusk from 5/9 until further notice (C. in C., Nore 1256/4) Re detaching JUPITER and KELVIN (F.O.C. 18 C.S. 1328/4
Left Rosyth 3 cruisers 1300 with HOLDENESS (C. in C., Rosyth 1410/4)
KELVIN, JUPITER left Humber 1710 (F.O. Humber 1710/ F.O.Humber 1722/4, Cancel my 1112, 1244, 1256 (C. in C., Nore 1835/4)

/Reference.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.9.1940.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

18th C.S. To com South-Contd.	Reference my A417/4/9 the three cruisers code Queen are not now proceeding to Nore. They will instead proceed Humber arriving about midnight 4/9 where they will remain until further notice. Strong protection is to be provided whilst these ships are in the Humber in the event of enemy air attack, and if help messages are received. (H.Q.F.C. 2040/4)
SCOTT	M/S left Port Z.A. 0710/4 (TRELAWNEY 0711/4)
NIGER	Sweep F.N. 72. Deatails (C. in C., Nore 0756/4)
JAVELIN JAGUAR	To be sailed as soon as ready owing to delay in sailing TITANIA, JAVELIN to Humber, JAGUAR to Rosyth (R.A.D. 1043/4)
CHEVREUIL CAPRICIEUSE	My 1707/30. Trials unsatisfactory, further signal re sailing will be made (C. in C., Portsmouth 1230/4)
Orkneys & Shetlands	Movements night 4/5 (F.O.C.O.S. 1541/4) State of A/S Trawlers (A.C.O.S. 1930/4)
WOLVERINE	Required at Liverpool for escort duty 8/9. To be sailed as convenient. (C. in C., W.A. 1609/4 to F.O.i/c Greenock)
GLOXINIA	To be sailed to Liverpool when ready (C. in C., W.A. 1613/4)
SHIKARI SKATE	Leave convoy at daylight 5/9 and proceed to Londonderry to fuel and await orders. (C. in C., W.A. 1620/4)
EMILE BAUDOT	My 1245/3, 1615/3. Sailing 2000/4 confirmed (C. in C., W.A. 1645/4) Sailing postponed (C. in C., W.A. 2313/4)
Harwich	Movements night to 1200/5 (N.O.I.C. Harwich. 1700/4)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.9.1940.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements-Contd.

M.A.S.B. 49 — Sails for Portland 5/9. Times. (F.O.I.C. Southampton 1726/4)

WORCESTERSHIRE — Position. Route to Clyde. (WORCESTERSHIRE 1806/3)

Rosyth — Movements, night 4/5. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1830/4)

N.P. Trawlers — Route on passage to an from Trawler line and Kirkwall or Lerwick. (F.O.C. N.P. 1845/4)

AURORA — To leave Humber to arrive Harwich 0600/5 (C. in C., Nore, 1958/4 to AURORA) My 1958 proceed to Sheerness (C. in C., Nore, 2208/4) Requesting fighter protection 0600/5- 0930/5 (C. in C., Nore 2244/4) Cancel my 2244/4 (C. in C., Nore 0101/5) Cancel my 1958. Remain at Humber. (C. in C., Nore, 2328/4)

M.T.B. 69 — Left at 2036 (F.O.I.C. Portland 2207/4)

ULSTER PRINCE — Your 1641/3. To remain at 6 hours' notice pending further instructions. (D.O.D. (H) 2238/4)

A/P and M/S Vessels — All auxiliary patrol and minesweeping vessels armed with 3 pdr. pr larger guns not at sea to be at one hour's notice for steam from 1900/9.

4- 12 pdr. and 2- 3 pdr. auxiliary patrol trawlers from Harwich and also from Lowestoft and Grimsby are to be ready to sail for South Coast at one hour's notice. (A.C.N.S. H. 1655/4 to C. in C., Nore)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.9.1940.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Iceland

Convoy B.A.S. 3. Modifications to MANCHESTER CITY's coils cannot be completed before 1500/5. Proposed to sail her with these uncompleted. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1333/4 to Adty.) Approved. (D.O.D. H. 1708/4 to F.O.I.C. Greenock) Intend sailing B.A.S. 3. at 2000/4 escorted by VERSATILE, VIMY, ST ELSTAN, AYRSHIRE, SPURS, NORWICH CITY. Route Speed 8 knots. Code word ROBIN. (F.O.I.C. Greenock., 1631/4 to Adty.) Owing to bad visibility sailing delayed until 0700/5 (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2137/4)

Troop Reinforcements

a.m. 1223/29 and your 2220/29. Number of troops to be sent to Iceland on 13th September is approx. 1000. 750 can be accommodated in one personnel ship and it is proposed to put the balance of 250 in CHITRAL. (D.O.D. H. 2237/4 to V.A.H.P.)

War Signal Stations

Military have established Port War Signal stations at Akureyri and Seydisfiord to work with Coastal Defence Batteries. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1745/4 to Adty.

Walrus A/C

As these are becoming overdue for major inspection would it be possible to send replacement A/C in ship of Convoy or in next A.M.C. for N.P. 41. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1747/4 to C. in C., H.F.)

Submarines

TIGRIS

Patrol between Bellisle Island and Ile Dyeu (V.A.S. 0942/4 to TIGRIS) Intercepted enemy A/C reports S/M 25 miles N.W. of Ile D'yeu. (V.A.S. 2007/4 to TIGRIS)

2nd S/M Flotilla

V.A.S. will assume operational control of Flotilla negative TUNA from 1600/4 till further notice (V.A.S. 1111/4)

/WHITE BEAR.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.9.1940.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines-Contd.

WHITE BEAR — Escorting 2 S/M's passes May Island 1400 proceeding to Pentland Firth. (C. in C., Rosyth 1340/4)

Adty. 1833/7/7 — Western Approaches Movements (C. in C., W.A. 1455/4) Greenock Area (F.O.I.C., Greenock 1820/4)

Positions — For following 24 hours at 0600/5. Area A.(V.A.S. 1652/4) Area B. (V.A.S. 1653/4)

E-Boats

Lydd — Coast Guard reports hearing Engine of motor boat, and M/G fire at 0030 in direction of Lydd Light Float. (N.O.I.C. -Dover 0035/4 to FENUIB)

Boulogne — At 1600/4 P.R.U. Sortie shows 50 motor-boats, probably E-Boats, arrived in Boulogne Harbour. (P.I.U. 2129/4 to N.I.D)

F.S. 71 Convoy Attacked
NEW LAMBTON
CORBROOK
FULHAM V
JOSEPH SWAN
NIEULAND
Sunk

Convoy apparently being attacked by E-Boats at 52° 50' N., 2° 9' E., (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 2309/4 to C. in C., Nore)
E-Boats disappeared. 2 ships hit. (VALOROUS 2341/4) Tugs are being sent (C. in C., Nore 0043/5 to VALOROUS)
Three ships sunk. LOCHGOIL, CORBROOK NIEULAND in position 52° 48' N., 2° 10'E (VALOROUS 0049/5 to C. in C., Nore)
Also sunk JOSEPH SWAN and FULHAM V (VALOROUS 0610/5 to C. in C., Nore)
A.M. LAMBTON, Hartlepool to London, torpedoed by E-Boat at 2245/4 at 52° 50' 2° 7½' E., Ship on fire and apparently sinking when abandoned. Crew of 25 machine-gunned in boat, brought safely to Lowestoft by H.M. Drifter GULA.
H.M.T. FARADAY ordered to search position (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft, 1112/5 to Adty.)
Survivors are in ORTOLAN 19, ETHYLENE, ELEANOR BROOKES and VALOROUS 21. Request transport at Southend and for VALOROUS at Sheerness. (VALOROUS 0703/5 to C. in C., Nore)

/As a result.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.9.1940.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

E-Boats, Contd.

As a result of "E" Boat attack on convoy F.S. 71 at 2300/4 between 55A and 56 buoys following were sunk. NEW LAMBTON, CORBROOK, FULHAM V JOSEPH SWAN, NIEWLAND. Torpedoes missed WESTMINSTER and SHEARWATER but escort saw no E Boats although faint H.E. heard. Two E boats between convoy lines fired M.G. and Cannon at SS EWELL who returned fire. Both columns of convoy w were attacked sea calm very dark night though clear. No aircraft co-operation reported. (C. in C., Nore 2350/5)

British Air Activity

Patrols S.L. A & S.16 B — Cancelled owing to low visibility. C. in C., Rosyth, 1604/4 to Adty.)

Air Searches — Nor 5/9. (C. in C., Rosyth 1930/4)

Air R/C's — Summary for 3/9 (D.D.I.C. 2003/4)

Cherbourg — Between 2217/ and 2250/4, A/C attacked Cherbourg with H.E. and incendiary bombs. One large fire started, and believed number of hits made and damage inflicted. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 0335/5 to Adty.)

Enemy Air Activity

Southsea — Estonian SS JAAK, 717 tons, empty and at Buoy off Royal Pier, damaged and sunk by near miss at 0132/4. No casualties or damage in Dock Area. (C. in C., Portsmouth 0335/4 to Adty.)

Shoreham — Coastguards Shoreham report heavy bombing lasting one minute 180° Shoreham; and saw one Flying Boat proceeding South. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 1556/4 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

Chatham — Air raid on Dockyard by single enemy planes about 2100/4. Railway line blocked near entrance to dockyard, track undamaged. Slight damage in dockyard (C. in C., Nore 1255/5, Supt. Civil Engr. 1755/5)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.9.1940.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining:

RIVER — Danish, 1452 tons. Passenger and cargo plying between Aeroe and other islands in Little Belt, report, reported by Swedish W/T to have been sunk. (Air Ministry D.S. 413)

Operation B.3. — Your 1445/3. Destroyers delayed. Further will be made. (C. in C., Nore, 0027/4 to H.Q.F.C.)

Operation M.3. Dover Straits. See V.A.Dover, 1310/2) — Operation M.3. A completed (INTREPID 0543/4 to Adty. Request fighter protection 1200/4 till arrival at Humber (C. in C., Nore 0810/4 to H.Q.F.C) Intend INTREPID, ICARUS, IMPULSIVE leave Spurn Point 1230/5, arrive South Falls, 2330, South Goodwin L/V at 2340, begin lay at 2359 and return same route to Immingham. Request M.T.B. and Air Cover (INTREPID 2215/4 to V.A. Dover)

Operation SN 5 — At 0615/4 sailed R.A A/A in CAIRO to comply with C. in C., H.F. 2201/3 (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0826/4 to Adty.)

Tyne — One Ground Magnetic Mine detonated 097° North Tyne Pier Light 11 cables. (F.M.S.O. North Shields 0650/4 to F.O.I.C., Tyne)

SN 41 — Propose sail for SN 41 at 0745/9 and lay between 56° 25' N., 9° W and 56° 2' N., 8° 33' W., steering 2100/9 and ending 2345/9. (RAML 1003/4 to C. in C., H.F.) Concur (C. in C., W.A. 1453/4 to RAML)

Fast Minesweepers — Request Fighter Protection from 1200/4 till return to Harbour for 5 fast Minesweepers between 52° N., 1° 45' E and 51° 47' N., 1° 49'E., (C. in C., Nore to H.Q.F.C.)

Tay — At 1020/4 one Red Magnetic mine exploded by L.L. Trawler 185° 3 cables from Western Buoy in Approach Channel. Several hostile A/C in entrance to Tay last night and 2 flops heard in water at 2350/3 off Monifieth Sands. (N.O.I.C. Dundee 1150/4 and 1810/4 to Adty.)

/Clearance of Would...

HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

Clearance of Would

GOSSAMER to sail for Humber as soonas possible, and F.O.I.C's Humber and Harwich requested to sail one pair each of LL Trawlers to Yarmouth to complete clearance of Would as by my 1128/28 (C. in C., Nore, 1225/4 to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth)

Peterhead

Master of STROMSO FIRTH reports seeing 2 suspected German Sea Planes at 2055/4 in 57° 33' N., 1° 33' W., which dropped suspected Mines. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1242/5 to C. in C., Rosyth)

EXPRESS Mined 3L/S)

M.T.B. guided survivors' boat by 2 enemy aircraft (C. in C., Nore, 1113/4)

Enemy Intelligence

Terneuzen

At 1130/4, 100 barges, all stationay, (P.I.U. 1926/4 to N.I.D)

Ostend

Barges increased to 100, and small craf exercising in open sea. (P.I.U. 1926/4 to N.I.D.)

Nieuport
Dunkirk
Calais

No activity (P.I.U. 1926/4)

Cape Gris Nez

At 1150/4, 110 large barges off Cape Gris Nez proceeding south in small groups extending for about 5 miles. 2 escorting vessels with barges. Possibly making for Boulogne. A/C to investigate (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1328/4 to Adty.)

Enemy Agents Landed near Dymchurch

At 0400 today 4 men landed in a rowing boat between Dymchurch and Lydd. Three who are Dutch, have been arrested, but the fourth has not been traced.
A morse key of German make and connect ing wires for a morse code signalling and a wireless receiving set has been found on beech near spot where boats landed.
According to prisoners' statements only four men landed, but two boats have been found capable of holding many men. Possible number may be much greater. Suspected these men are enemy agents and that description of fourth man may be false.
(C. in C., Nore, 1445/4 to Adty.)

/Fourth.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.9.1940.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Enemy Agents Landed at Dymchurch, Contd.

Fourth man has been arrested at Lydd with W/T set in his possession. He had met enemy agents and states they were sent to this country to gather information regarding Coastal defences and the morale of British people and as far as can be ascertained no other men have been landed in Kent. According to arrested men two other men were also trained for this work and are expected to be sent to this country in the course of a day or two. Inquiries and observations are to be maintained. (C. in C., Nore 1151/5 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.9.1940.
Wednesday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

LAIRDS CASTLE
VERNON CITY

Collided with unknown steamer at 55° 10' N., 5° 30' W., Immediate assistance required (Portpatrick Radio 0646 and 0653/4) Sunk in collision with VERNON CITY at 0540/4 in 55° 10' N., 5° 30' W., -VERNON CITY believed damaged and proceeding to Liverpool. No casualties re--ported. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1049/5 to Adty.)

Polish M.A/S B's 44 and 45

Were part of escort of convoy C.E. 10. No 44 is ashore on Goodwins and No 45 believed also. (V.A.Dover 1050/4 to Adty.) Both refloated. 44 has returned to Dover. 45 being towed to Dover with 2 engines broken down. (V.A.Dover 1501/4 to Adty.) M.A/S.B 44 arrived Dover at 1247/ (V.A. Dover 1338/4 to Adty.)

BEACON GRANGE

Request Tug to escort and steer BEACON GRANGE to repair Port. Ship ready to sail 8/9. (A.C.O.S. 1244/4 to Adty.)

BORKUM

One large or two small tugs will be required for BORKUM ready about 12/9. (A.C.O.S. 1244/4 to Adty.)

WOODSTOCK

Ashore at East side of Haisbro Sands. Will someone please stand by. (Humber Radio 1245/4)

NARBADA

My 1358/28. Passed Cape of Good Hope. 1400Z/4 bound for Durban. (S.O.I. Cape Town, 1454/4 to Adty.)

AGATE

Aground on South Goodwins. LADY BRASSEY sailed at 1220/4 to assist. (V.A.Dover 1647/4 to Adty.)

TROPIC SEAS

2 Sunderland A/C will be sent to search for German and Norwegian survivors of TROPIC SEAS last sighted in 45° 47' N., 10° 16' W., and now proceeding in boats towards French Coast. (V.A.S. 2121/4 to S/M's on patrol)

SAUCY

Tug. Blown up and sunk at 1950/4 277° Inchkeith 2800 yards. Evidence points to internal explosion. 6 survivors landed at Leith. Understand 33 on board at time of explosion. (C. in C. Rosyth 2307/4 to Adty.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.9.1940.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping
Situation	At 2000/4. (C. in C., W.A., 1431/4)
A.P. 3.	Sailing may be delayed. R.V. for SHEFFIELD to be arranged so that NEWCASTLE is absent from home waters for minimum time. (D.O.D. (F) 0030/4) SHEFFIELD to convoy, NEWCASTLE to remain home waters. (D.O.D. (F) 2057/4)
T.C. 7.	Request fighter protection (C. in C., W.A. 0203/4) Arrived, REVENGE and destroyers and EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA, GEORGIC, DUCHESS OF YORK, SCYTHIA, ORONSAY and PASTEUR. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0616/4)
C.W. 11.	Owing to delay to ships intended to be included, to be postponed (date) (D.T.D., 0237/4)
B.H.X. 71	Left, escort RASPUTANA (Capt i/c Bermuda, 1053/4)
H.X. 67 B.M.	Arrived (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1740/4)
S.L. 44	Unable to rejoin after attacking enemy submarine, lack of fuel (BLYSKAWICA, 1221/4) LA MALOUINE sailed to comply 1450/3 (WESTERN ISLES 2130/4)
S.L. 44 B.	YORK CITY to R.V. (C. in C., W.A. 2030/4)
O.A 208	PENNY to join, position. (C. in C., W.A., 1330/4)
O.A 209	Sailed, close escort POWEY and CAMELIA (C. in C., Rosyth 1721/4)
O.B 208	Located Clyde portion (SCIMITAR, 1715/4)
O.G.42	Sailed, escort LEITH, MACKAY, GERANIUM (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1725/4)
O.B 207	To alter course. (C. in C., W.A., 1730/4)
H.X. 71	RANPURA to escort (F.O. 3 B.S. 1003/4)
H.G. 43	Route. Escort, WELLINGTON and GARLAND (F.O.C.N.A., 2102/4) Extra escort in view of U/B activity. (F.O.C.N.A., 1736/4)
S.L. 46	Sailing telegram as amended by Adty. (D.T.D. 1744/4 1745/4)

/O.G. 42.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.2.1940.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoys, Contd.

O.G. 42	List and destinations (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1621/4)
O.B.M. 210	Route. (N.C.S.O., Liverpool 1905/4)
O.B.M. 209	Sailed (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 2230/4)
BRITISH PROGRESS	Sailed escorted by LEEDS UNITED (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 1331/4) Request air protection (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1541/4)
ANJA	(Finnish bound for Rio) Your 1445/3. Report names and nationalities of passengers. (D.E.W.D. to F.O.I.C. Iceland 1504/4)
GOTEBORG	My 1622/3. Future employment (Hd. of M to F.O.I.C., Iceland, 1956/4) Missing pp papers. No difficulties to be made. (Hd. of M., 1957/4)
HERPORT	Disaffection in crew, 10 nationalities. Leave stopped without affect. Request instructions. (N.C.S.O., Funchal to F.O.C.N.A., 2000/4)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4. 9. 1940.
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace"

Convoy M.P.

Owing to U-Boat activity East of Azores, to pass between San Miguel and Terceira and then resume route in my 1909/24/8. (C.-in-C., W.A., 1303/4).
In order that limited facilities of Freetown may be organized for expeditious fuelling and watering of Force M and Convoys M.P. and M.S. following information required.
Would assist considerably if arrival of convoy A.P. 3 (8 transports) delayed until M forces have fuelled and watered. No doubt appreciated that S.L. 48 is due to sail from Freetown (date). To facilitate berthing, names of transports in which G.O.C. and other British French general officers are carried.
(C.-in-C., S.A. 0918/4 to Admty.)
Reply C.D.O.D.(F) 1105/5.

South Atlantic

A.P.3. Escort to Freetown (see Shipping).

French Africa. Situation Report No. 4. (D.N.I. 1359/4) No. 5. (D.N.I. 1927/4).

PRETORIA CASTLE. Date of sailing fro Freetown (N.O.I.C., Belfast, 1027/4)

HARBADA. (Overdue) My 1538/28. Passed Cape of Good Hope 1400Z/4 bound for Durban. (S.O.I., Capetown, 1454/4)

DRAGON Defects, date of completion (N.O.I.C., Simonstown, 0940/4)

Freetown Organisation of limited facilities for use by Force M and Concoys M.P. and M.S. (C.-in-C., S.A., 0918/4) (See Operation "Menace")

Duala .....

MOST SECRET

4. 9. 1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic (Contd.)

Duala, Libreville. Situation Duala satisfactory but it is doubtful if free French will take any offensive action against other French before latter initiate hostilities. Boom barrage not yet complete but formidable. Manoka battery not yet mounted. One French submarine located Libreville 1111/3 where our cause is reported bad. Situation Point Noire reported both critical and vital. Am proceeding tonight 4/9 Point Noire with ten free French Officers at the request of Larimant and Leclerc in anticipation of your approval. Your 1922/3. Request all available information of movements of BOUGAINVILLE and other French warships. Pending further instructions I do not intend taking initiative in hostile action against French Forces.
(DELHI, 1559/4 to C.-in-C., S.A.)

Suspicious Ship, Tristan. Report from late Chaplain, Tristan da Cunha, ship not unlike German MONTE OLIVIA approached island and attempted to signal by lamp. HAWKINS will examine Gough Island on passage to Simonstown.
(R.A.S.A.D., 14532/3, recd. 0555/6)

Trade Defence. MORETON BAY, ARAWA. Your 1317/24. Admiralty have recently investigated problem of defence of trade on your Station. Agreed that convoy should not be introduced until -
(a) losses inflicted on ships sailing independently reduce the flow of trade to a greater extent than would the delays inherent in convoy system, or
(b) our losses seriously affect our carrying capacity.
Not considered that critical point has yet been reached. Unescorted Group sailings have been considered but, on balance, are not recommended.
Having regard to future troop convoy movements, not possible, with forces available, to provide merchant ship convoy escorts on South Atlantic trade routes. Proposed patrols by CANTON and CARNARVON CASTLE and their use as troop convoy escorts if required are concurred in.
To what extent are air patrols being carried out to South of Cape?
Ref. A.M.1031/4/7, in order to obviate delay to trade caused by combining S.L. and S.L.F. convoys, MORETON BAY and later ARAWA will join your command.
(D.O.D.(F) to C.-in-C., S.A., 2301/4.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4. 9. 1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean.

STUART	Stopped with burst auxiliary steam pipes, with instructions to join A.S.3 when repaired. (C.-in-C., Med., to C.S.3, 0919/4)
BARHAM	Question of future duty. 3 alternatives. Request remarks. (1st S.L. to C.-in-C., Med., C.-in-C., H.F., 1747/4)
Operation "Hats"	Ref. C.-in-C., Med., 1817/2 and V.A.H's 1830/2. Was it possible to determine what class the battleships sighted by EAGLE's aircraft were? Request C.-in-C., Med. and V.A.H. will report in due course whether as a result of the experience gained in "Hats" it is considered practicable as part of a Fleet operation in which both Eastern Mediterranean Force and Force H take part to pass through to Eastern Mediterranean. (1) M.V's of 16 knots containing troops. (2) M.V's of 16 knots containing material, taking into account that the presence of M.V's discloses our intentions. (1st S.L. 1759/4 to C.-in-C., Med.) My 1817/2. Report on Operation "Hats". (C.-in-C., Med., 2141/4, 2145/4) (Summarised in Situation Report).
Guns, Malta.	Re-allocation of guns. (W.O. to Govr., Malta, 2115/4)
BERYL E-Boat	BERYL engaged a motor boat probably Italian E-Boat, off N.E. Malta at dawn 3/9. E-Boat took no offensive action and retired at high speed (D.O.B. 4/9)
Press Communique	Intend issuing following Press Communique. Between 30/8 and 5/9 our Naval forces were carrying out extensive operations in the Central and Eastern Mediterranean. During these operations enemy ships were sighted on 31/8 by our submarines, who torpedoed an enemy unit, and later by our aircraft shortly before dark. The enemy Battle Fleet was sighted by our aircraft when about 150 miles from ours and as he turned North towards his base no contact was possible No other enemy surface forces were sighted throughout the operations.

2.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4. 9. 1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Press Communique (Contd.)

2. When our Fleet was some distance to the South West of Malta it was attacked by Bombers. This action resulted in five enemy aircraft being shot down by F.A.A. Aircraft and gunfire of the Fleet.

3. On 4/9 the enemy Aerodromes at Maritza and Calato in Rhodes were simultaneously bombed by F.A.A. At Calato a number of aircraft on the Aerodrome were destroyed. Loud explosions were heard probably from ammunition dumps and fires observed in barracks and other buildings.

4. At Maritza two main hangars hit, petrol dumps, barracks and workshops set on fire.

5. ORION attacked Pegadia Bay but withdrew after a few salvoes as there were no suitable Military Targets, and it was desired to avoid damage to the village and civilian life. SYDNEY and two destroyers attacked Makri Yalo which was bombarded with good effect. ILEX sank two E-Boats which attempted to attack and damaged a third. The remaining two in the harbour retired without attacking.

6. During the operations here reported eight enemy aircraft were shot down and 6 damaged apart from those destroyed on the Aerodrome. During these operations four of our aircraft failed to return.
(C.-in-C., Med., 2152/4)

Air.

Operational Summary

No. 86, to 1200/4. 1 Sunderland 228 Sqdn. reconn. for enemy naval forces Malta, Zante, Crete, Alexandria in connection with operations of Med. Fleet, covering passage of convoy Malta to Alexandria, results unknown.
(H.Q.R.A.F. M.E. 1038/4)

Convoy .....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4. 9. 40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean Air (Contd.)

Convoy Attacked — Convoy escorted by COVENTRY bombed p.m./4 off N.E. Coast of Crete. (D.S. 366)

Malta Raid — Malta Air Intelligence Report up to 1800 hours 4/9. All times local. 4/9 1725 to 1800 several enemy formations reported approaching the Island from South East but no raid materialised Probably enemy making landfall from South. Fighters up but no interception (H.Q. R.A.F., Malta, 1620/4)

Destroyers Attacked — Enemy bombing position 37. 43 N., 5. 55 E. (GALLANT 1225/4)
GALLANT'S 1225. Force F attacked by 4 flights of 5 bombers in formation and singly between 1225 and 1430 high level bombing. No result. GARLAND has 2 boilers with tubes leaking. Towed by GRIFFIN from 1715 to 1845 now proceeding on one boiler. My position course and speed at 2000 zone minus one 037° 16' N. 002° 34' E. 258 degrees, 15 knots, expected time of arrival 2230 zone minus one 5/9 (Capt. D.13. 2001/4)

East Indies

B.N. 5. — Date of leaving Bombay and route. (F.O.C.R.I.N. 0434Z/4)

B.N. 4. — Departure 0345Z/4, KINGSTON and Aden Ships for B.N. 4., CALEDON on patrol. (N.O.I.C., Aden, 0347Z/4)

A.P. 1 and 2 — Estimated dates of arrival Suez. (C.-in-C., E.I., 1300/4)

NEPTUNE — To leave Durban p.m. 5/9 to reconnoitre undefended anchorages. South Madagascar, to discover whether used by raiders. Provocative action against French to be avoided. (C.-in-C., E.I., 1826Z/4)

BATORY — Your 1302/3. Undesirable to use as she will have to continue to Australia with children on board. (D. of S.T. to P.S.T.O. Bombay 2307/4)

Aden ....

MOST SECRET

4. 9. 40.
Wednesday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies (Contd.)

Aden Raid — Air attack on Aden at 1015/4, by three S.79's. No damage, no casualties. (D.S. 366)

VELHO bombed — S.S. VELHO attacked by unidentified enemy aircraft 0545 10 miles W. of Kamaran, again bombed and machine-gunned in outer harbour Kamaran by 2 waves of 5 and 4 aircraft 0946 to 1025. No damage, no casualties. (A.H.Q., Aden 1844/5)

China

Shipping, French Ports. — B.L.O. Saigon 1000/3. British and Allied ships not to sail for Indo-China ports until situation classifies and assurances received from Governor General and Marine, Saigon, that all Allied ships are included in guarantee. (C.-in-C., China, 0233Z/4)
My 1000/3. Chief of Staff, Marine, Saigon states confirmation received from Governor General no British or British Allied ships will be detained in Indo-China ports.

2. Your tel No. 0553/3/9. Norwegian HAIDAH has been given permission to load cargo but as name of this ship has already been signalled Vichy Chief of Staff is awaiting return of Admiral Tereaux from Hanoi this morning before actually releasing her. He states he feels confident Admiral Tereaux will approve of her release.
(B.L.O., Saigon, 0300Z/4 to C.-in-C., China)

Japanese Protest — Letter from Parsonmaru protesting that shortly after midnight 11/8 Japanese naval transport TENZEN MARU N.E. of Tamkan Island, 22.03 N., 114.16 E., pursued by British destroyer, which played searchlights on her 10 minutes after recognition. (N.L.O. Shanghai, 0809Z/4 to C. in C., China)

/Situation.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.9.1940.
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies-Contd.

Norwegian N.A. suggests whale catchers operating from British West Indian Bases with British C.O's and Norwegian crews should similarly fly whit ensign for same reason. He feels however, advisable to ascertain feelings of crews. (N.A Washington, 1230/4)

S.C. 4. Admty. 2013/30/7. Asking if escort arrangements made. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa to C. in C., W.A., 1841Z/4)

DUCHESS OF ATHOL
H.M.S. REVENGE To sail with 1400 naval and other personel for U.S. destroyers from Liver pool (date) (D.O.D. (H) 1140/4)

Australia

Suspicious Vessel Ship which cannot be identified sighted by aircraft in position 036° 52' S., 115° 30' E., at 0015Z/3 course 298° Aircraft sent to shadow failed to locate poor visibility. Ship not sighted by air search. 4/9. Description, Cargo ship about 7000 tons, light draught. (A.C.N.B. 1220Z/4)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.9.1940.
Wednesday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

DUTCHMAN — Left Teneriffe 2000/3. (F.O.C.N.A., 1104/4) (D.D.I.C., 1206/4)

SALZBURG — Left Batoum 1/9 for Reti. (D.S. 366)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

RAFFIO — Left Castegenn 13/8 for unknown destination, probably with cargo of scrap iron for Italy. (D.S. 365)

REX — Report 26/7. REX one of many ships laid up at Bari (D.S. 365)

SATURNIA — Lying camouflaged at Naples. (D.S. 365)

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

FELIX ROUSSEL — Left Port Said 3/9, due Port Sudan 6/9 (S.B.N.O., Suez Canal Area, 1521/4)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.9.1940.
Wednesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

TITAN

British, 9035 tons. Ship of O.A. 207 torpedoed in 58.11 N., 15.50 W., GODETIA, 0100/4) Torpedoed 0030/4. rear ship port column. No contact. (ST. LAURENT, 0451/4) Outward bound. London to Sydney. 89 Europeans saved, 6 Chinese reported missing. (D.S. 365) (D.O.R. 5/9) Proceed Clyde land survivors, complete with fuel and re-join convoy. (C. in C., W.A. to GODETIA 0107/5) Position. Expect to arrive 1200/6 (GODETIA, 0300/5)

AGUILA
(Shelled 19/8)

Description of salvoes. U/B had 2 guns. (S.O.I. Gib. 1316/4)

Submarines Reported

Proceed to patrol position. TUNA reports definite further evidence that U/B passes through area at night outward bound. (Capt. (S) 3 to SUNFISH, 0231/4)

Lorient

A/C reported one S/M and 2 small boats in the lead entering mouth of river 1145. (A.C.H.Q., Plymouth, 1203/4)

Lorient submarine base very active. Two submarines still in dry dock immediately south Point de Caudan one large one small submarine alongside landing stage opposite side of river. Large submarine alongside Hulkat T.B. station appears to be afloat with large floating crane on other side. One submarine preceded by two M.T.B's north of Groix Island approaching Lorient and about to enter estuary. No S/Ms north of Pont de Caudan. (P.R.U. St. Eval, 1730/4)

1220 — Reliable fix of U/B probably homeward bound 58.35 N., 04.25 E., (V.A.S., 1341/4)

1257 — 58° 25' N., 4° 25' E., position approximate (D.S. 366)

1200 — Aircraft report 47.20 N., 04.40 W., suspected submarine (C. in C., W.A., 1617/4)(R.A. (S) 1754/4)

1717 — 48.50 N., 8.20 W., position approximate (D.S. 366)

/1847.....

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported-Contd.

1347 Aircraft report, submerged submarine, 46.53 N., 02.05 W., (F.O., submarines, 1946/4)

North Atlantic

U-Boat activity in Gibraltar vicinity.
(i) At 1530/2/9 off Alboran contact by VELOX sighted by air. Result of attack unknown.
(ii) At 1815/3/9 sighted off Alboran by air hunt by 4 destroyers no result.
(iii) At 1220/4 230 Spartel 93 sighted by air. Description Reddish colour with U.L. 3 or 5 in white on conning tower. H.G. 43 has been sailed with extra escort. (F.O.C.N.A., 1736/4)
Possibly on trawler (D.S. 366)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

German.
1 between Azores and Portugal or farther South. No recent news.
1 between 55° and 57° N., in about 25° W., ay 1233/3.
3 in N.W. Approaches of which I may have been in 54° 35' N., 15° 48' W., at 1000//3: another probably N. of 56°N. between 10° and 15° W., the third is probably E. of 10° W.
Also 1 in 58° 14' N. 15° 50' W., at 0100/4.
1 in northern NorthSea homewrad bound.
(D.D.I.C. 1211/4)

Mediterranean & East Indies

BERYL obtained possible contact with U/B 3/9 N.E. Malta (.D.O.R. 4/9)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.9.1940.
Wednesday

U-Boat CAMPAIGN

Submarines Attacked

Well done, submarines. Consider we should press home attacks against U-Boats with our submarines before enemy realises how theirs are being sunk. (C. in C., H.F. to V.A(S) 1144/4)

Admiralty congratulations to CACHALOT on successful attack on U/B on 20/8. (D.A/S.W., 1737/4

1515 Contact 56° 15' 18" N., 02° 21' 48"., W one pattern dropped. No further contact. Am proceeding with submarine. (WHITE BEAR, 1515/4)

1831 SKATE and ERICA attacking firm contact in 180, 56° N., 8° W., 12 (CANTON, 1831/4, 2017/4) 55.48 N., 8° W., probably wreck (D.S. 366)

2205 Have firm contact position 56. 26 N., 00.43 W., am holding target (TUNA, 2205/4) Have lost contact, consider target is on bottom. Very firm contact for 20 minutes and finally lost at 900 yards. Am patrolling in endeavour to keep him down. Propose leaving here one hour before dawn. 'TUNA 2340/4)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.9.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Operation D.F.

C. in C., H.F. in NELSON with FURIOUS, NAIAD, BONAVENTURE and 6th D.F. left Scapa 0900 today, passing west of the Orkneys and Shetlands, for a position about 120 miles West of Statlandet where FURIOUS is to fly off a striking force of 9 Skuas and 12 Swordfish to attack shipping on the Norwegian Coast between Sogne Fiord and the Grip Light an area which is outside the reach of aircraft operating from Hatsston. The ships will return to Scapa, and the aircraft are to fly direct to Hatston after the operation.

U-Boat sunk by TRIBUNE

V.A.S. reports that he considers TRIBUNE sank a U-Boat west of the Hebrides today.

Cruisers for Sheerness

AURORA and CARDIFF left the Humber last night for Sheerness, being met and accompanied by WIVERN and WILD SWAN.

Destroyer Patrol

VENETIA and VESPER last night patrolled between 54 D buoy and Smith's Knoll, to protect Convoy F.S. 72 against possible E-Boat Attack.

U-Boat Torpedoed

TRIBUNE reports that she fired two torpedoes today at a confirmed U-boat contact about 40 miles West of Lewis and considers one hit certain.

E-Boats engaged

BLYSCAWICA unsuccessfully enegaged 2 E-Boats off Falmouth about 0300 today.

W.Approaches

It has now been decided that both the H.Q. of the C. in C., W.A. and the combined Area H.Q. of the Western Approaches shall be at Liverpool.

GODETIA Sunk

GODETIA (sloop) was sunk at 2256 today in collision with SS MARSA a straggler from convoy OA 205 off Altacarry Head So far several officers and men are unaccounted for

/Preparations.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.9.1940.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Home Commands

Preparations for Invasion

Photographic reconnaissances show considerable increase in large concentrations at the following places.
Bruges 100 and 30 motor boats; Dunkirk 34 and 100 in approach canals;
Calais 53. The following concentrations of shipping are shown: 25 small craft off Knocke; 200 barges in Ostend; a procession of 31 small craft and 2 M/S a t Dunkirk; 12 small steamers off Calais; 42 barges at Boulogne; 15 vessels off Havre; and a group of small craft entering Willemsoord.

There appears to be a general evacuation of canals in the Ghent area, with the general movement towards the S.W.

The total of self-propelled barges which has been located moving westward along the Belgian coast and also in Ostend, Dunkirk, Calais, Boulogne and Havre is not less than 500.

Notice for Steam

On account of the considerable concentrations of barges and small craft from Ostend to Cherbourg all cruisers, destroyers and small craft are at immediate notice during dark hours until further notice. Small craft are at 2½ hours' notice by day. Certain East Coast convoys are retained in harbour for the present.

British Air Operations

The seaplane base at Texel was attacked last night but results were not observed.

Bombs were dropped in the Termenzen Dock area last night. The concentration of barges which it was intended to attack had apparently left Termenzen, and no barges were seen.

Boulogne was also attacked. The motor boats could not be seen, but all bombs fell in the target area and two large fires were started.

Four aircraft attacked gun emplacements At Cape Gris Nez between 0215 and 0315 today. No results were observed.

/One A/C.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.9.1940.
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Operations-Contd.

One A/C attacked Calais harbour at 0455 No results were seen.

The fuel oil depot at Kiel was attacked last night and fires started.

-Intense Flak prevented observation of the results of an attack on barges near Delfzil.

The seaplance base at Borkum and the naval Dockyard at Emden were also attacked.

Our fighters today destroyed 44 enemy aircraft (plus 20 probable and 17 damaged) and lost 22 aircraft but only 7 pilots.

American Grumman F.4.F. single seater fighters are now being introduced into Naval Service.

Enemy Air Operations

Convoy S.L. 44 A was attacked off Buchan Ness about 2130 today SS ST GLEN was sunk and SS ANNET abandoned but was towed to Peterhead and her leaks dealth with SS DORINGTON COURT was attacked but arrived at Rosyth with the convoy.

The fire in the tanks at Thames Haven burned out early this morning, but this afternoon there was a further raid and 9 tanks were set on fire. There were no Naval casualties.

Three drifters were attacked this morning by enemy bombers while attempting to rescue four German airmen who had baled out from a bomber off Folkestone. The drifters had to abandon their attempted rescue.

M.T.B. 32 was attacked by fighter A/C off Folkestone this morning while proceeding to the assistance of A/C reported down between Dungeness and Hastings. She returned to Dover leaking forward and with her captain and 3 of crew wounded.

/Mining.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.9.1940.
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

Operation M.S.B.

INTREPID, ICARUS and IMPULSIVE last light laid further mines near S. Goodwin L.V. 5 M.T.Bs provided cover. On completion of the operation M.T.Bs operated between Cape Gris Nez and Calais from 0130 until Dawn. No traffic was observed.

Enemy Minelaying

Mineloying by enemy A/Cs last night is suspected in Lyme Bay, Themes Estuary and between Amble and St. Abb's;Head; also increased activity of this nature in the Firth of Forth.

Mines were exploded off Inchkieth Lighthouse today. Rosyth was opened in the afternoon, but Leith and Granton are still closed.

The Tyne was closed from 0355 to 0931 today.

North Atlantic

Force H

ARK ROYAL, BARHAM, RESOLUTION and 10 destroyers left Gibraltar at 1830 today for Freetown. CUMBERLAND is at Freetown.

OSTMARK

The German aircraft ship OSTMARK sailed from Las Palmas last night. Her destination is reported to be Dakar.

South Atlantic

Point Noire

DELHI arrived at Point Noire today and reports the town in Free French hands. Her welcome was good. The SIDI-FERRUCH is still at Libreville.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.9.1940.
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Air Raid on Suez

H.A.Batteries fired and Egyptian Air Force fighters took off when enemy A/C approached Suez today. No bombs were dropped and no interceptions were made.

Air Raid on Haifa

Haifa was bombed this afternoon. Aircraft of the French Flight failed to intercept All bombs fell outside the harbour. The possibility of mines is not excluded.

Air Raid on Matruh

Matruh was bombed twice today and railway didings were damaged. There were no casualties.

East Indies

Air Raid on Aden

Aden was bombed early this morning, and target being presumably the Naval oil tanks. No military damage was caused.

Air Raid on Convoy B.N. 14.

Three air attacks were made today on LEANDER and Convoy B.N. 14 north of Jebel Tair (Red Sea) No damage was caused to ships. LEANDER probably damaged one enemy aircraft.

COVENTRY is being placed at the disposal of C. in C., E.L., by C. in C., Med. for protection of convoys.

China

Allied Shipping

The Governor General of Indo-China has given assurance that no British or Allied ships will be detained or interfered with in Indo-China, in spite of any orders from Vichy. Our ships are, consequently, now allowed to trade there.

America & West Indies

Supposed Submarined

DUNDEE escorting Convoy S.C. 3. made contact at 1930/3 with a supposed Submarine in 44° 38' N., 56° 10' W.

New Zealand

The Commodore N.Z. Squadron is proceeding in ACHILLES to Papeete.

War Diary

MOST SECRET

6.9.40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

My 0137/4. Now decided that the H.Q. of the C. in C., Western Approaches shall be at Liverpool and not Londonderry. The Combined Area H.Q. will also be established at Liverpool. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1345/6).

Defence of U.K.

Dover Defence — Cancel Adty. 1955/5. The C. in C., Fighter Command, is reconsidering the A.A. defence of the Dover Area as a whole in collaboration with C. in C. Home Forces. (D. of L.D. 1230/6).

NAIAD & BONAVENTURE — Request NAIAD and BONAVENTURE may join C. in C. Nore thus relieving two of 18th C.S. as soon as convenient. Turn over to take place in Humber Area. (D.O.D.(H) 1455/6 to C. in C., H.F.)

Steaming of A/P and M/S Vessels — My 1655/4. Ships may be at 2½ hours notice during daylight hours. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1905/6, to C. in C., Nore, Portsmouth, V.A.Dover and Sub-Commands).

Weymouth Defence — Block ship S.S.KENFIG POOL is to be placed across the entrance to Weymouth each night and in low visibility. (D. of L.D. 1959/6).

Invasion expected — A large collection, not less than 500, self-propelled barges has been located moving westward along the Belgian coast and also in Ostend, Dunkirk, Calais, Boulogne and Havre. Unlikely that it is intended these concentrations should be maintained for long in face of our bombing and hence an attempt at invasion may be expected in the very near future. From the large concentration of shipping at Hamburg it appears that an attempt at invasion may also be launched from the German Bight.
All cruisers, destroyers and small craft are to be kept at immediate notice during dark hours until further orders.
Boiler cleaning etc. is to be discontinued.
Ships at present boiler cleaning or undergoing minor repairs are to be prepared for sea at the discretion of Flag Officers concerned.
(1st S.L. 2225/6).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

6.9.40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Arrangements for Reinforcement

Circumstances may render it essential for Adty. to order reinforcement at very short notice of one command in the U.K. at the expense of one or more other commands, the latter being so reduced that all operations in progress or anticipated have to be abandoned.

2. To ininitate this operation the two following Code Words have been instituted:-

(a) AUGMENT
(b) MULTIPLY

3. These Code Words will be preceded by name of the Command or Sub Command, who are to provide the reinforcements, and followed by type of vessel to be dispatched and the name of the Command or Sub Command to which the reinforcemtns are to proceed.

4. On receipt of Code Word AUGMENT following action is to be taken:

All vessels of type indicated who are in harbour at the Command or Sub Command addressed are to raise steam with all despatch, complete with fuel and proceed with despatch to the Command or Sub Command to be reinforced.

Examples

(1) Western Approaches AUGMENT Destroyers Dover.
(2) Rosyth AUGMENT Escort Vessels Humber.

5. Should larger reinforcements be necessary Code Word MULTIPLY will be sent, when following action is to be taken.

As for AUGMENT and in addition.
All vessels of the type indicated attached to the Command or Sub Command addressed, at sea, are to be recalled to harbour with all despatch, completed with fuel and proceed with despatch to the Command or Sub Command to be reinforced.

Examples.

(1) Western Approaches MULTIPLY Destroyers Dover.
(2) Rosyth MULTIPLY Escort Vessels Humber.

(D.S.D., 2236/6).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

6.9.40.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Northern Patrol Trawlers	Dispositions (S.O. Northern Trawlers 0946/6, F.O.C.N.P. 1650/6).
KEPPEL	My 0853/5. On leaving convoy proceed Clyde (C. in C., W.A., 1051/6).
Nore	Day patrols and movements to 1200/7 (C. in C. Nore 1200/6, 1844/6, F.O. Harwich Force, 2335/6).
CHEVREUIL	To be paid off and recommissioned by F.F. Naval crew. (D.O.D.(H) 1205/6).
Dover Patrols	Night 6/7. (V.A. Dover, 1241/6).
Orkneys	Movements tonight. (A.C.O.S. 1526/6).
KENYA NIGERIA	Re trials (D.O.D.(H) 1545/6).
LA CAPRICIEUSE	To sail for Tobermory 1930. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1553/6).
Portsmouth	Night movement signal (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1605/6).
Rosyth	Movements. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1848/6).
FORTH	Sailed Rosyth 1900/6 with JAGUAR. Request cover during daylight 7/9. Position. (C. in C., Rosyth, 2218/6 to H.Q.F.C.)
Harwich	Movements to 1200/7 (F.O. Harwich Force 1651/6).
BELFORT	(M.A/S.B. Accommodation ship) to be towed to Fowey leaving Plymouth 0300/8. An LL minesweeper will sweep ahead. (C. in C., W.A., 1256/6).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

6.9.40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Gunfire off Newhaven — Explosions and flashes as of gunfire heard to south approx. 10 to 20 miles (N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 0417/6).

Nore Patrols — Amendments Nore Operational Memo No.11 (C. in C., Nore, 1330/6).

B.A.S.3 — Orders as to altering course. (C. in C., W.A. 1510/6).

ULSTER MONARCH, "RIVET", CHITRAL — ULSTER MONARCH carrying approx. 750 troops for Iceland will be ready to leave Clyde 13/9 in company with CHITRAL carrying about 250 troops. Code word "RIVET" (D.O.D.(H) 1510/6).

M.T.Bs — On completion of operations M.S. (A) and M.S. (B) on 4/9 and 6/9 respectively M.T.B's operated between Cape Gris Nez and Calais from 0130 until dawn. No traffic observed. (V.A. Dover 1547/6).

Operation P.E. — My 1550/5/7. Senior Officer Groups (3) and (4) - VETERAN (C. in C., Nore, 1715/6).

Submarines

Safety Areas — Areas in which A/S vessels and Aircraft are not to attack submarines (A.C.O.S. 1329/6).

Positions & Movements — At 0600/7 Area A. (V.A.S. 1637/6). Area B. (V.A.S. 1638/6).

Adty. 1833/7/7 — (F.O. Greenock, 1744/6, C. in C., W.A., 1755/6).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

6.9.40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

E-boats

E-Boats off Harwich — Indication of E-boats off Harwich. (C. in C. Nore, 0133/6 to INTREPID, ICARUS, IMPULSIVE, VESPER, VENETIA). Estimate E-boats were steering 065° from Sunken or Shipwash L.V. 0152 at slow speed. Fire star shell on probable bearing when you think they are approaching. (C. in C., Nore, 0222/6 to S. & A., Nore and Dover Command Area). E-boats altered 115° at 0235. (C. in C., Nore, 0249/6). E-boat activity appears to have ceased. (C. in C., Nore, 0335/6).

BLYSCAWICA attacked — One E-Boat course 120°, my position 50°7' N. 4°52' W. (BLYSKAWICA, 0307/6).
BLYSKAWICA reports that when in 50°31' N. 5°18' W. at 2350/5 torpedo track passed ahead. Contact obtained and attack delivered. Contact lost after attack. No H.E. was heard but attack may have been made by E-boat and not U-boat. At 0300/6 in 50°06' N. 5°48' E. boats were sighted and one was engaged at about 1500 yards. E-boat was lost sight of although star shells were used. (C. in C., W.A., 2051/6).
Note Longitude given in C. in C., W.A., 2051/6 is suspect.

British Air Activity

R.C. Coast of Norway — Heavy rain low clouds and patches of sea fog expected Norwegian coast from 1400/6. Reconnaissance is accordingly being carried out now. Weather expected to clear on Norwegian coast from about dawn 7/9. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1036/6).

Bombing restrictions — For TALISMAN proceeding to patrol off St. Kilda (C. in C., W.A., 1047/6).

R.C. in region of Iceland and Greenland — 6/9. Further to your 0112/6 regret impracticable for Hampden to carry out tasks requested. Pilot should be instructed to return forthwith. (Air Min. 1226/6 to Adty.).

Patrol in S. North Sea. — To protect convoys against E-boat attack. Tonight. (H.G.C.C. 1440/6).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.9.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity-Contd.

U.S.A.Aircraft in Naval Service

American Grumman F. 4 F single seater fighters are now being introduced into Naval service. These aircraft will be operating initially from Hatston.
A small number of Brewster Buffaloes are flying non-operationally from Naval Air Stations. (5th S.L. 1827/6)

Air Searches

For 7/9 (C. in C., Rosuth 1922/6)

SHEFFIELD

Air escort will be provided fromm 1600 till dark 7/9.

TITANIA

Air escort will be provided from 1300 until till dark 7/9.

CICILIA

WORCESTERSHIRE

Air escort will be provided from dawn until arrival.
(C. in C., W.A., 1809/6)

H.Q.B.C. Summary

Six Blenheims attacked "E" boats in Boulogne Harbour between 2115 and 0417 16 x 250 lb. 32 x 40 lb and 24 x 20 lb bombs and 2x 25 lb and 360 x 4 lb incendiaries were dropped. Bombs were seen to drop in the target area, but no results were seen.
Four aircraft attacked gun emplacements at Cap Gris Nez between 0215 and 0315 10 x 250 lbs. 36 x 40 lb bombs and 8 x 25 lb and 240 x 4 lb incendiaries were dropped. Flashes were seen on the target area but no results were observed.
One aircraft attacked Calais Harbour at 0455 2 x 250 lb and 12 x 40 lb boms were dropped. No results seen.
(H.Q.B.C. Rec. 2305.)

Thames Haven

As two large fires from four to six tanks at Thames Haven are burning and there is little hope of extinguishing them tonight it is requested that special protection be given. (C. in C., Nore, 2057/6 to H.Q.F.C.)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

6.9.40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Operations

Thames Haven

My 1930/5, fire in tanks at Thames Haven burnt out at 0530. Considerable aerial activity during the night over tanks. No further damage. (F.O.I.C. London, 1055/6).

In raid just ended nine tanks at Thames Haven set on fire and burning. No naval casualties. (F.O.I.C., London, 1846/6).

Attacks on Rescuers

At 0930 today while attempting to rescue four German Airmen who had baled out from a Bomber off Folkestone Drifters GOLDEN SUNBEAM, LORD HOWE and FORECAST were attacked by enemy bombers and rescue prevented.

M.T.B.32 also attacked by Fighter Aircraft off Folkestone at 1040 while proceeding to assistance of Aircraft reported down between Dungeness and Hastings. M.T.B.32 leaking forward and four of crew including Captain wounded. (V.A. Dover, 1222/6).

SL.44A attacked, ST. GLEN sunk, DORRINGTON COURT arrived Rosyth, GANNET abandoned.

Convoy SL.44A attacked from air about 2130/6 in position 57°25' N. 01°45' W. S.S. ST. GLEN sunk but crew are aboard SANDWICH. S.S. DORRINGTON COURT attacked, no details received. S.GANNET from Lerwick and Stromness in same position also bombed and making water. (C. in C., Rosyth, 2357/6).

GANNET bombed 57°25' N., 1°41' W. making water. (Wick Radio, 2024/6). Bombed 3 miles E. Buchan Ness (DORRINGTON COURT, 2141/6). ST. GLEN bombed and hit in engine room abandoned and afloat in 57°25' N., 1°38' W. picked up crew ship may not sink. (SANDWICH, 2225/6) ST. GLEN has sunk. (SANDWICH, 2300/6).

My 2357/6. DORRINGTON COURT has arrived in convoy. GANNET was abandoned at 0400/7. All crew saved. No casualties. Endeavour being made to tow her in to Peterhead. SANDWICH has 40 survivors of ST. GLEN including one cot case 2nd and 4th Engineers and one donkeyman missing. (C. in C., Rosyth 0940/7).

S.S. GANNET now alongside S. breakwater Peterhead, apparently undamaged except for leaks in below water fittings due to near miss by bomb. Leaking being dealt with by divers. Captain and crew returned on board. Propose bringing GANNET to Aberdeen for docking. Only cargo one motor omnibus and one motor car. (C. in C., Rosyth 1205/7, N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1239/7).

MOST SECRET
6
~~8~~.9.40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity (Contd.)

IWATE — Trawler, attacked at 1140 when 140 miles West of Ireland. The aircraft were driven off by return fire from trawler. (D.S.368).

Trawler LT.148 — Trawler LT.148 reports being attacked by two Heinkels at 0900/6 in 51°20' N. 11°22' W. one man killed. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1005/8).

St. Leonards — Following from Coastguard Fairlight: Hostile aircraft dropped about 12 H.E. bombs in the sea off Glynde Gap 2 miles West of St. Leonards at 2350. (N.O.I.C., Newhaven, 2358/6).

Mining

Tyne — Closed due to enemy minelaying (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0355/6). Port open (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0931/6).

Firth of Forth — 2 mines exploded off Inchkeith LH today. (C. in C., Rosyth 2359/6). Port of Rosyth now open. Leith and Granton still closed. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1527/6).

Operation MSB — (Minelaying near S. Goodwin L.V.) Completed. Nothing to report. (INTREPID 0710/6).

Operation SN.42 — Propose to sail for SN.42 at 0700/14 and lay within area bounded by lines drawn five miles either side of a centre line joining positions 56° 05.5' N., 8° 27.7' W. and 55° 45' N., 7°38' W. starting at 2045/14 and ending at 0030/15. (R.A.M.L., 2109/6).

E-coast War Channels — Instructions for sweeping. Merchant traffic should become secondary consideration in event of heavy ships moving south. (A.C.N.S. (H), 1305/6 to C. in C., Nore, F.O., Humber, F.O.I.C., Yarmouth).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

6
8.9.40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining (Contd.)

Operation SN.41

A. Deep minefield from N.W. to S.E.
D.1 SOUTHERN PRINCE, MENESTHEUS, PORT QUEBEC, SCOTT.
F. From 56°24.6' N., 9°00.3' W.
To 56°12.2' N., 8°57.4' W.
To 56°14.4' N. 8°35.2' W.
To 56°02.0' N. 8°32.4' W.
G. 0730/9.
L. 2100/9.
O. Port ZA 1315/10.
R. 2100/8.
(R.A.M.L., 2004/6, 1155/7).

Enemy Intelligence

Note. See also Defence of U.K.

Kiel

Details of PRU Sortie 5/9. (PRU 0325/6, 0103/6, 0306/6). No marked concentration of shipping, but there were a number of M.Vs in harbour. (D.D.I.C., 0136/6).

Wilhelmshaven

Details of PRU. Sortie 5/9 (~~KR~~ PIU, 0103/6, 0325/6).

Flushing-Ostend

Details of PRU Sortie, 5/9. (PIU. 0430/6).

Emden Delfzyl

Details of PRU Sortie 5/9 (PIU 0536/6).

Kiel 5/9 GNEISENAU and SCHARNHORST in floating docks. LUTZOW in dry dock.

Main Units

Wilhelmshaven 5/9. TIRPITZ and 1 8" Cruiser in Bauhafen.
Bremen 4/9. SEYDLITZ completing.
Hamburg 4/9. BISMARK completing.
Unknown Graf Zeppelin.
SCHEER (last located Wilhelmshaven 20/7)
1 8" Cruiser.
NURNBERG
LEIPZIG
EMDEN
KOLN (D.D.I.C. 1629/6).

Coast of Norway

Details of R.C. (C. in C., Rosyth, 2048/6).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

6.9.40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence (Contd.)

Boulogne

PRU Sortie H/165 1700/6 shows in Boulogne 40 barges in Bassin Loubet as previous reported. Group however moved slightly towards centre of basin suggesting that whole block may be shifted after nightfall. 9 barges in Outer harbour and 7 seaplanes. (PIU 2130/6).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

6. 9. 40.
Friday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

GODETIA sunk MARSA.

GODETIA sunk in collision with s.s. MARSA 3 miles East Altacarry Head 2256/6. MARSA has 8 survivors, some injured. S.S. LAIRDSGROVE has unknown number of survivors. MARSA in no immediate danger. SALVONIA sailed to her assistance 0100. (PORT PATRICK 2255/6, 2303/6, 2354/6, 0003/7, F.O.i/c. GREENOCK 0233/7, 0410/7, 0455/7, C.-in-C., WESTERN APPROACHES 0939/7). Aircraft report MARSA proceeding to BELFAST has onboard 22 survivors of GODETIA (C.in-C., WESTERN APPROACHES 1431/7). Captain, 1st. Lieut. 13 ratings landed GLASGOW ex LAIRSGROVE. 8 in MARSA. 34 still unaccounted for. Position of collision 55° 18' N. 5° 57' W. Ship sank in 2½ minutes. (F.O.i/c GLASGOW 1643/7).

TROUTPOOL (Wreck)

Position 1.8 miles 357° BANGOR PIER (F.O.i/c BELFAST 1541/6).

LASHER

N.C.S. Drifter, was in slight collision with s.s. KNUT at 1435/6. Intend carrying out survey locally (N.O.i/c.METHIL 1610/6).

KING CITY

Due SINGAPORE 3/9 from DURBAN, not arrived. (80/1 SINGAPORE 0900/6).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

6.9.40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoys

S.C.2	Indications position has been reported by U-boat. (C. in C., W.A., 2053/6) (See U-boat Campaign).
F.S.73	3 A/S trawlers to screen ahead. (C. in C., Nore, 1218/6).
HX.68	To alter course to port at 2100/6 for 3 hours. (C. in C., W.A., 1630/6).
FS.74	To proceed into Humber. Escort and convoy to remain there until further orders. (C. in C., Rosyth, 2235/6).
SL.44A	My 1848/6, add passed Buchanness 2000/6. Amend GLEANER to arrive May Island 0500/7).
3 M.Vs	Sailing for Falmouth for onward routing to Cromarty, escort SARDONYX and STURDY. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1327/6). Sailed 1930. (C. in C., P., 2127/6).
FN. & FS.	Fore cast of sailings 75 to 82 with excorts. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1847/6, 1427/7).
HX.68A	FLEUR DE LYS to meet. (C. in C., W.A., 1339/6.)
Code Words	Additional convoys corresponding code words and call signs established: Convoy S.C., ROMAN, MGH; SCB,. SPARK, MGI; S.C.B.M., THETA, MGJ. Additional spare code words (list). (D.S.D., 1611/6).
HX.71	Draft sailing telegram. (N.O.I.C. Halifax, 0955/6).
OG.42	Position (V.A.N.P., 1310/6).
OB.209	To alter course at 2100/6 to port for 3 hours (C. in C., W.A., 1450/6).
Bristol Channel	In future all convoys bound for Bristol Channel to be directed and escorted to Barry Roads instead of Milford Haven. (C. in C., W.A., 2320/4, recd. 1505/6).
SL.44	Arrived with VANOC and ERICA (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1040/6).
OA.208	Clyde portion arrived. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1200/6)
SL.44B	Arrived Barry. (N.O.I.C. Barry 1106/6).
HG.43	Sailing telegram. (D.T.D., 1306/6).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

6.9.40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

GOTEBORG

Swedish Minister Foreign Affairs informs us GOTEBURG with approval of both British and German Govts. is authorised to proceed with cargo of herrings for Swedish Govt. from Iceland to Gothenburg. (N.A., Stockholm, 2210/6).

EMILE BAUDOT

French cable ship. My 1245/3. Sails 2000/6. (C. in C., W.A., 1445/6).

E-Coast Convoys, Shuttle Service.

Adty. proposal to run a shuttle service of trawlers for protection of E. Coast convoys against E-boats examined. Observations.
If ships are made available a shuttle service by slow speed craft involves alteration in convoy time table to allow convoys to meet clear of the shoals where escorts can transfer. This would expose southbound convoy to an additional 3 hours' exposure to air attack by daylight. (C. in C., Nore, 1430/6 to Adty.).
Concur with C. in C., Nore any alteration in time-table which will reduce speed of convoy is to be deprecated. Great difficulty being experienced by large ocean going ships at present due to slow speed. (C. in C. Rosyth, 2325/6).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.9.1940.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace"

French Convoy

Following partially corrupt message received from MALOJA: French Convoy 6 ship/d escorted by SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA, 33° N., 23° W., 93, course 180° 11 knots at 2000 G.M.T. T of 0 2043/5. (D.O.D. (F) to S.O. Forces M., 1525/6)

Force M

Gibraltar departures 1830/6 ARK ROYAL BARHAM, RESOLUTION, FAULKNOR, FURY, FORTUNE, FORESTER, FORESIGHT, GREYHOUND, INGLEFORD, ECLIPSE, ESCAPADE, ECHO expected time of arrival Freetown. Route. (F.O.C.N.A., 1918A/6)

My 1615/3. For FIREDRAKE read GREYHOUND (S.O. Force H. 1753/6)

North Atlantic

A/S Forces

Your 1136/26. Difficulties appreciated and your A/S Forces will be reinforced as soon as can be arranged (D.A.S.W. to F.O.C.N.A., 1909/6)

Air Attack on Destroyers

Italian War Bulletin Number 90 5/9. Ships attacked near Algerian Coast were 5 destroyers named in my 2100/5 (GARLAND, GRIFFIN, GALLANT, GREYHOUND, HOTSPUR) Force was attacked between 1225 and 1430/4 by 4 flights of 5 bombers in formation and singly high level bombing. No hits or damage. Have informed Gibraltar Press that that although ships referred to in Italian Bulletin were attacked by bombers none of them hit and no damage whatever. (F.O.C.N.A., 1027/6)

South Atlantic

DORSETSHIRE

Admty. 1752/5. and N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1600/31. DORSETSHIRE docking dates and expected date of arrival Freetown (C. in C., S.A. 1143/6)

/ DELHI.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.9.1940.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

DELHI
Pointe Noire

Arrived Point Noire. Town in Free French hands Received excellent modified form of welcome. Reorganisation not developed. Seaward defences in hand but not yet completed.
Cannot stress too strongly the morale Uganda could gain by earliest arrival of Free French Naval Forces in this area. Earliest resumption of ordinary trade will also have an excellent political effect. I hope to be able to refuel locally. French submarine still at Libreville 1200/4. (DELHI, 1629/6)

W.S. 2.

Admty. 1311/27 and 2011/27. Final allocation of personnel Convoy. W.S. 2. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1700/6)

WINCHESTER CASTLE

General Castoux, ex-Governor General of Indo-China, passengers in WINCHESTER CASTLE for U.K. Governor, Sierra Leone, also taking passage. (C. in C., SA 1730/6)

Raider Report Cancelled

TREBARTHA reports merchant raider in 02. 15 S., 22.45 W., at 1440/6 course 220° speed 9 knots. ENTERPRISE to proceed with all despatch. (Ascension Radio, 1714/6, C. in C., S.A., 1600/6) Cancel my 1600/6 (C. in C., S.A., 1713/6)

Mediterranean

Operations

Replies to Admty. 1759/4. (C. in C., Med., 1021/6., S.O. Force H., 1245/6) See Mediterranean Volume.

Shipping

Appreciation. Recommend running fast convoy through Mediterranean during winter. (N.O.I.C., Malta, 1129/6)

PROTEUS

To leave patrol 8/9 for Alexandria. (Capt. S.I. 1715/6)

/French Shipping ....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.9.1940.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

French Shipping

Consul General Beirut's telegram 118 (to F.O.) Fully agree. Suggest French Government be informed we can only issue safe conduct if given guarantees that ships will carry repatriated personnel only and not provisions or military equipment. Suggest also be impressed that PROVIDENCE which sailed without previously informing us was firtunate not to be sunk and that her long stay at Alexandria which eneable her to be recognised stood her in good stead. (C. in C., Med., 1711/5)

COVENTRY

Am informed B.N. 4 has been heavily bombed. As I understand CARLISLE is not present I am sailing COVENTRY for Suez 7/9. She is at your disposal for W.S.2. Will signal further about A.P. 1. when I have your answer to my 1419/6. (C. in C., Med. 2117/6 to C. in C., E.I.

Convoy A.S.3.

Arrived (N.O.i/c Port Said 1901/6)

Air

Suez Raid

At 1215. No bombs dropped. H.A. batteries fired 10 rounds. R.E.A.F. planes took off. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 1256/6)

A.A. Batteries at Suez in action shortly before noon today, shell burst being observed to westward of refinery. 3 R.E.A.F. planes observed taking off. Subsequent A.A. conrol reported 1 plane had been sighted approaching from Jebel Ataqua at height of 25,000 ft. no bombs dropped and M.T.B. with Lewis gun was out looking for parachutists. 2 parachutists reported landed near Shatt. All clear sounded 1300. My 1651/5. Helwan reports that a plane has been found crashed 50 miles south of Ataqua. Egyptian A.A. Batteries claim that yesterday's raider crashed. (S.B.N.O., Suez Canal, 1831/6)

Haifa Raid

At 1645. 4 aircraft approached from N.N.E. at 15000 ft. All bombs dropped off harbour entrance and Lee breakwater. Possibility for mines not overlooked. (N.O.I.C., Haifa 1912/6)

/Malta....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.9.1940.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean, Air-Contd.

Malta,
Raid 5/9

1800 hours- 1818 hours 5/9 Six enemy aircraft identified as J.U. 87 B's (Dive Bombers) flew over Island at approximately 15,000 feet. Area Hal Far, Kalafrana, Pmarsa Scirocco attacked by bomb and machine gun. Method of Attack, Bombers separated and dived down in successive pair from 15,000 feet. Bombs released at approximately 600 ft. M.B. at 200 feet. Unexploded bomb Kylafrant believed delay action 800 lbs. No damage. No casualties. Attack met by A.A. gun and small arms fire. Latter effective. Two enemy aircraft believed damaged. (Governor, Malta 2222/6)

EAGLE
Red Sea Convoys

Re using EAGLE with R.A.F. Gladiators in defence of Red Sea Convoys. (C. in C, Med. 1841/6)

H.Q., R.A.F., Middle East Operational Summary No. 88 period ending 1200 hours 6/9.

1. Egypt 5/9 1430 hours. 1 S. 79 attacked Suez. 6 bombs near refinery, no damage. 5 Squadron R.E.A.F. went up but failed to intercept. A.A. guns opened fire no hits. 1650 hours 14 S. 79s attacked Matruh. 3 bombs dropped Railway sidings damaged, no casualties.

2. Sudan 5/9 1320 hours. 4 Wellesleys 14 Squadron low level attack 3,000 feet buildings North East Nocla Island. Bombs fell 200 yards short no damage. A.A. fire nil 9 warships observed in lagoon. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1048/6)

East Indies

B.N. 5.

ANTENOR and HECTOR to form Force "R" for B.N. 5. (C. in C., E.I. 0714Z/6)

Troop Convoy

A.K. 1., RAHMANI, ETHIOPIA and KHOSROU, escorted by CARTHAGE, route. (N.C.S.O. Aden 0500Z/6 to Admty and N.O.I.C. Kilindina amended 1025/6)

/Reference....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.9.1940.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

Reference C.A.G., Aden Most Secret No 443. H.M. Government have decided that every facility is to be given to evacuation of both White and Senegalese troops from Jibouti, priority being given to White troops. (1st S.L. 1848/6 to S.N.O. Red Sea., W.O. 2350/6 to C. in C., M.E.)

WESTRALIA — To leave patrol so as to arrive Colombo 0330Z/10. (C. in C., E.I. 0716/Z/6)

Kismayu — Your 1318/27. All ships in Kismayu may be treated as supply ship and may be object of bombardment in accordance with policy in A.M. 1233/6/6. (Hd. of M., 1753/6 to C. in C., E.I.)

Fighter Protection, Convoys — Commenting on A.C.C., M.E's A 419, 0707/6, to Air Ministry, etc., advocates longer range and faster type shore based aircraft than Blenheims. (C. in C., E.I., 1800/6) See Operation Volume.

Air Raid on Aden — 3 S. 79's attacked Aden 12,000 feet at 0530 G.M.T. presumed target Admiralty Oil tanks, 2 bombs fell outer harbour, 2 bombs 10 yards R.A.F. Hospital, 4 bombs Tawahi and 4 bombs near oil yanks and Powerhouse damaging native houses, 5 natives killed, 13 wounded.
Our A.A. fairly accurate and one aircraft suspected damaged. Fighters intercepted and chased to Khor Umeira. 2 enemy aircraft believed hit, some damage 1 fighter (A.H.Q., Aden, 2001/6)

Air Attack on B.N. 4 and LEANDER — Three air-attacks on LEANDER and convoy B.N. 4 today north of Jabal Tair. One aircraft first attack, four or five each second and third attacks. No damage. One enemy aircraft probably damaged by LEANDER. (C. in C., E.I. 2000Z/6)

/Red Sea.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.9.1940.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

Red Sea, Need for Aircraft Carrier

As anticipated since publicity from Air Ministry to immunity Red Sea route air attack, hold on shipping now increasing and indication of still further developing. With my Air Forces Aden and Sudan I can reduce scale of attack by offensive against Italian East African aerodromes and by limited Blenheim fighter escort from Aden, but necessity of aircraft carrier with fighters for convoy escort Red Sea area becoming apparent. Request you discuss with Admiralty as C. in C., Mediterranean Fleet does not include Red Sea. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 0707/6 to Air Min.)

China

Allied Ships Indo-China

B.L.N.O. Saigon's 0400/5. Take action accordingly (C. in C., China, 0603Z/6)

Japanese Protest

Your 0809/4. Pending the receipt of letter and despatch of written reply inform V.A. Iwamura of circumstances detailed in para one Comdre. i/c Hong Kong's 1057/5 and convey to him politely gist of paragraph 3 in which I concur. (C. in C., China 0601Z/6 to N.L.O. Shanghai)

KING CITY

Due Singapore 3/9 from Durban, not arrived. (S.O.I. Singapore, 0900/6)

ILE DE FRANCE

My 0915/14/8. Suggestions re disposal of crew, as Japanese cancelled temporarily sailings to Europe. Continued presence of crew here undesirable and expensive. (C. in C., China 0929/6)

Indo China Trade

Following received from Consul-General Haiphong to C. in C., China. Repeated Cdre. Hong Kong L.O. Saigon, S.O. (I) Singapore. Your 0553/z/3 Governor General Decoux gives full assurance that no British or Allied ships will be detained or interfered with in Indo-China in spite of any orders from Vichy. He also promises to give us timely warning to stop ships en route to colony if necessary. Instructions to this effect have been given to Admiral Terraux also to release Norwegian ship HAIDAH impounded. (Consul-Gen., Singapore 1831/6)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.9.1940.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

Indo China Trade, Contd.

Your 1123/5. Request you will thank Governor General for very satisfactory arrangements made by him for continuance of trade to our mutual advantage and for his promise to give timely warning to stop ships should he consider this necessary. I will give him similar warning of any action on my part. (C. in C., China, 06052/6 to Consul General, Haiphong.)

America & West Indies

S.C. 3.

DUNDEE escorting made contact with supposed submarine 1930/3. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1531/6) See U-Boat Campaign.

REVENGE
DUCHESS OF ATHOLL

Route (C. in C., W.A., 1617/6)

U.S. Destroyers. S/M O. 14.

Suggesting Dutch submarine O.14 be sent Halifax for A/S practice with U.S. destroyers. (F.O.C. 3 B.S. to C. in C., A.W.I., 1846/6)

MATILDA THORDEN

Finnish. My 1642/4. Intercepted letter to New York states load Petsamo expected sail 5-10/9. (C. in C., A.W.I. 1813/6)

Dutch Whalers

Your 1230/4. Admiralty decision in case of Norwegian Whalers operating from British West Indian Bases was that they should wear white ensign. In addition in harbour to wear Norwegian Jack at jackstaff, etc. Crews have no objection. Suggest similar procedure for Dutch controlled whalers. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1044/6 to N.A. Washington)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.9.1940.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia

U.S. 4. Following personnel embarked, and disposal. (A.C.N.B., 1340/6)

Amending N.C.S.O. Fremantle's 0915Z/5 (A.C.N.B., 0134Z/6)

U.S. 5. Prospective dates. Difficulties with crew in A.C.N.B., 1905/29/8. persist and crew may refuse to sail with troops on board. (A.C.N.B., 1250Z/6)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

6.9.40.
Friday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

OSTMARK	Left some time after midnight. (Las Palmas, 0750/6). (F.O.C.N.A., 1144/6). No change in situation apart from departure of OSTMARK. (Las Palmas, 1100/6). B.3 report, OSTMARK proceeding to Dakar. (Las Palmas, 1714/6, F.O.C.N.A., 2230/6, D.D.I.C., 2355/6, D.S.O., 1911/7).
HAVELLAND	German seaman from German ship HAVELLAND, now in Yokohama wishing to leave ship, has visited Polish Embassy Tokyo with the object of changing citizenship. Has informed (?) Polish (?) Military Attache that HAVELLAND is carrying fuel (? alcohol) and explosives for German warships in Pacific Ocean with whom she was intended to R.V. but could not do so on account of engine trouble. HAVELLAND carries no armament and is expected to remain in Yokohama six or seven weeks. Source stated there are 3 German warships in Pacific and that Germans have large stocks of fuel in Mexico especially at Manzanilla. 1241/6.
LUVSEE	Arrived N Dubrovnik 2/9 due to leave 7/9, 3000 tons bauxite for Trieste. (S.O.I., Alexandria, 1211/6).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

FRANCA FASSIO	Left 5/9 for Genoa (Varna, 1715/6).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

6.9.40.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

ULVA (torpedoed 0215/3). — British 1401 tons, from New port to Gibraltar, torpedoed and sunk 0215/3, 180' W.N.W. of Inishtrahull, say 56.30 N., 12° W. Convoy had dispersed. 17 survivors landed island of Barra. 3 of crew missing. (D.S. 367, D.O.R., 6/9).

HAR ZION (torpedoed, 0500/31). — British, 2508 tons. In convoy OB. 205. Torpedoed and sunk 0500/31, position not yet known, may have been about 56.20 N., 10° W. Only one survivor. (D.S. 367, D.O.R. 6/9).

Submarines Reported

U/B far out in Atlantic made 3 signals today which may mean that she has sighted Convoy S.C.2, approx. in 58° N., 19°30' W. No fix obtainable but bearings appear to pass through this position. (D.D.I.C., 1921/6). Informing SCARBOROUGH (C. in C., W.A., 2053/6).

1810 — U/B reported off the Smalls at 1810 by S.S. BARRY M. M.L. 110 to sweep south coast of Cardigan Bay before ~~xxx~~ entering Milford Haven. (C. in C., W.A., 2231/6). TETRARCH and TRITON advised and to inform CUTTY SARK. (F.O.(S) 2356/6).

1930/3 — DUNDEE escorting S.C.3 ordered local escort to make following Signal of return to Harbour: DUNDEE made contact with supposed submarine at 1930/3 in 044°38' N., 056°10' W. Contact was lost at 1950. Attack not resumed owing to darkness and necessity of rejoining convoy. 1 depth charge dropped. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1531/6).

Estimated U/B Dispositions:

1 S.W. of Fastnet moving Northward.
3 or possibly 4 in N.W. Approaches of which 1 was in 56°22' N: 11°10' W. at 1111/5. No recent news of the others.
Also it is thought that 2 are now in 20° W. or even farther W. one of them between 56° and 58° N. the other between 58° and 60° N.
Also 1 was in 58°41' N. 5°10' W. at 1515/5 outward bound possibly through Minches.
Possibly one two off Firth of Forth. (D.D.I.C. 1227/6).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

6.9.40.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Attacked

1930/3 — DUNDEE escorting S.C.3 ordered local escort to signal on return to harbour that DUNDEE made contact with supposed submarine at 1930/3 in 44.38 N., 56.10 W. Contact lost at 1950. Attack not resumed owing to darkness and necessity of rejoining convoy. 1 depth charge dropped. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1531/6).

0642 — TRIBUNE fired 2 torpedoes at confirmed U-boat contact in 57.58 N., 8.13 W. Consider one hit certain. (TRIBUNE, 1027/6).

U-boat sunk by TRIBUNE — TRIBUNE when dived in position 57°58' N., 08°13' W. at 0600/6 heard loud motor H.E. contact obtained and held. Fired two torpedoes 0640 contact range 600 yards. Loud explosion 25 seconds after firing and H.E. ceased. Second explosion 8 mins. after firing. Surfaced 0655 oil observed in patches. Sea rough. Remained in vicinity two and half hours. I consider this to be a successful attack skilfully carried out. (V.A.S. 1116/8).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.9.1940.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

CARDIFF

CARDIFF, escorted by FERNIE and BERKELEY left Sheerness this evening for Portsmouth.

RHODORA Sunk

A/S yacht RHODORA was sunk at 0500 today in collision with SS NGATIRA off Cardiff. There was no loss of life.

E-Boat Attack on F.S. 73

SS STAD ALKMAAR (Dutch) was sunk during E-Boat attack on Convoy F.S. 73 at 0230 today, about 15 miles East of Orfordness.

Sweep to Iceland

REPULSE, BERWICK, NORFOLK with ZULU, SIKH, KASHMIR and KIPLING left Scapa at 1250 today to sweep towards Iceland.

Operation D.F. (See 6/9)

The ships returned to Scapa this evening. All aircraft returned safely today to Hatston. One Skua was damaged by forced landing on return, the crew being unhurt. A direct hit with a 250 lb bomb was obtained on SS SEREI (Danish) and the ship last seen abandoned and sinking. Another merchant ship was attacked and near misses obtained.

Orders to Submarines

V.A.S. has given orders to all S/Ms on patrol in the North Sea that for the next few days their direct object to be anti-invasion.

British Air Activity

A Patrol was undertaken last night in the south part of the North Sea, to protect convoys against E-Boat attack.

Last night a successful attack was made on barges in Ostend and shipping in Boulogne. Hits were registered on the docks gates at Ostend. Gun emplacements at Cape Gris Nez were successfully attacked by 5 aircraft.

Our fighters today destroyed 74 enemy aircraft (plus 34 probable and 33 damaged) Our casualties were 27 aircraft of which 14 pilots killed or missing

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.9.1940.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

During air attacks on the London Docks last night a few small fires were caused but were easily extinguished.

About 0035/7 one H.E. bomb was dropped on the R.N.A. Depot, Lodge Hill, (Chatham area) but only insignificant damage resulted.

Soon after 1750 today the enemy launched a very big attack, the principal objectives of which appear to have been industrial and dock property on both sides of the Thames. Bombs were dropped at Woolwich, Purfleet and in the dockland area of London. Some damage was caused at Woolwich to the Arsenal and serious damage to civil establishments. At Purfleet, in the East India, West India, Surrey Commercial and Millwall Docks very serious fires broke out.

Dover was bombed this afternoon, but there was no damage and no casualties were caused.

Bombs fell near GALATEA in a raid on Sheerness today.

Mining

Three of our aircraft were successful in minelaying operations around Laeso Island.

Enemy minelaying on the East Coast last night is suspected as far north as the Humber.

A spontaneous unexplained explosion was seen at 0552 off Chequer Shoal Buoy, (Humber) followed by a flash in the sky one minute later.

Leith and Granton were ~~xx~~ reopened at 1437.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.9.1940.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic

OSTMARK — CUMBERLAND (Force M) at Freetown was ordered at 0403 today to raise steam with all despatch and proceed to intercept OSTMARK (see 6/9)

ARGUS — Is to retun to the U.K. as soon as possible (see 5/9)

Mediterranean

Air Raid on Malta — The Dockyard- Grand Harbour area was attacked at 1230 today. OLYMPUS (S/M) was slightly damaged in dock and tug HELLES was sunk. Slight damage to Naval property was caused. Fighters shot down one enemy aircraft and A.A. fire probably destroyed another.

Cable — An attempt to cut the Syracuse-Tripoli (Africa) cable last night was unsuccessful. Another attempt is to be made tonight.

East Indies

Recent leakages of information regarding the movement of H.M. ships and convoys on the Station are considered to be traceable to the Japanese Consular authorities and ships' masters.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.9.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Submarines

Cancel my 1042/7 (Orders for Movements) there are indications that an attack on British Isles may take place in next few days. Object of all S/Ms on patrol in North Sea is to be anti-invasion. (V.A.S. 1904/7 to S/Ms on patrol)

Preliminary visual reconnaissance today 7th September, Reports:-

Ostend — Increase of 100 barges. More still arriving, also 30 forty ft Motor Boats.

Dunkirk — 75 barges in harbour. 100 barges along the coast between Dunkirk and Calais. Some entering Calais.

Calais — 80 barges in harbour also 27 tugs and 35 forrty ft. motor boats.

Boulogne — About 40 barges approaching harbour. No report of barges inside harbour.

Scheldt — Large number of barges proceeding through the Scheldt Estuary.

The general trend of traffic today is to the westwards from the Scheldt. There are indications that this will continue tomorrow. (D.D.I.C. 1937/7 to Cs-in-C)

Dover. — Adty's. 2041/5. WAR SEPOY has been sunk in Western Entrance at 1900/7 and is lying so that about 450 feet of the Entrance from the end of the Detached Mole is blocked. (V.A.Dover 1927/7 to Adty.

Policy

French Warships — In addition to vessels already taken over Admiral Muselier should be able to man CAPRICEUSE shortly, and LA CORDELIERE, L'INCOMPRISE and BRANLEBAS after 15th September. It is hoped to turn over all remaining French ships later on. (2nd. S.L. 2018/7 to C. in C., W.A.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.9.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

More — Anticipated night dispositions 7-8/9. (C. in C., More 0800/7) Day Patrols and anticipated movements. (C. in C., More, 1200/7)

B.C. 1. — Cruisers and destroyers raise steam for 24 knots. Keep steam at 1 hours' notice. Battle cruisers raise steam for 24 knots. Keep steam at 2½ hours' notice. (B.C. 1. 0048/7)

MARGAREE — In accordance with A.M. 1655/30, DIANA paid off on 6/9 and re-commissioned with Canadian crew as H.M.S. MARGAREE.

DOUGLAS — Intend sail DOUGLAS for Scapa 1930/7, passing Lands End 0330/8. Expect arrive 1900/9. C. in C., Portsmouth 1130/7 to Adty.)

CHEVREUIL — Adty. 1205/6. Intend commission CHEVREUIL with full crew. a.m./11th. (A.C. F.N.F.L. 1225/7 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

KEPPEL — Proceeded in accordance with orders on completing with fuel in Lough Foyle. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1230/7 to C. in C., W.A.)

NELSON, FURIOUS, NAIAD, BONAVENTURE — Expect arrive with 7 destroyers at 1850/7. (C. in C., H.F. 1349/7 to A.C.O.S) Your 1455/6. Intend NAIAD and BONAVENTURE sail for Humber on 9/9. These ships, though worked up, cannot yet be kept at short notice for sea for such long period as can be expected from older established classes of cruiser. (C. in C., H.F. 2341/7 to Adty.)

LEONIAN — Boom Carrier. My 1133/6. Sailing delayed by defects (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1423/7 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

/CARDIFF.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.9.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements-Contd.

CARDIFF — Request fighter protection for CARDIFF and 2 destroyers from 1830/7 till dark from Sheerness to North Goodwin L.V. (C. in C., Nore 1552/7 to H.Q.F.C.) Escorted by FERNIE and BERKELEY leaves Sheerness 1830/7 to pass Dover after dark and arrive E entrance Portsmouth Swept Channel at 0500/8. (C. in C., Nore 1620/7 to C. in C., Portsmouth) North and South Goodwin L/Vs will not be manned. (N.O.I.C. Dover 1732/7 to C. in C., Nore)

Orkneys — Movements for night 7/8 (A.C.O.S. 1601/7) state of A/S Trawlers (A.C.O.S. 1930/7)

WITCH — Arrived Londonderry. Completing with fuel and awaiting orders. (F.O.I.C. Belfast. 1802/7 to C. in C., W.A.)

Rosyth — Movements for night 7/8 (C. in C., Rosyth 1916/7)

ATHERSTONE, BULLDOG, SALADIN, BEAGLE — My 2030. If nothing found bt 2230, proceed with despatch to 170° Dungeness 15 miles. Ships to come under orders of V.A.Dover from 2230 (C. in C., Portsmouth 2207/7 to ATHERSTONE) Request Fighter protection daylight to about 0900/8. (V.A. Dover 0233/8 to A.D. C. in C., N.C.)

CHITRAL — A.M.C. Force P.C. CHITRAL in 54° N., 15° W., at 0700/8, steering 050° at 13½ knots towards 55° 20' N., 10° W., North Channel to Greenock datum 54° 20' N., 13° 30' W. (15 Group 2205/7 to H.Q.C.C.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.9.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations.

Iceland

Report received that German convoys of large transports, one with 2 cruisers, passed Great Belt northwards on 4/9 or 5/9. Report graded C. 4., but such a move is consistent with recent abnormal W/T activity. Further report (B.3) states German troops in Norway are embarking in large steamers for invasion of Iceland. (D.D.I.C. 0108/7)

BERWICK, NORFOLK, REPULSE and 4 destroyers to proceed towards Seinisfjord Iceland, with moderate despatch. (C. in C., H.F. 0653/7)

Sailed at 1250/7 with ZULU, SIKH, KASHMIR and KIPLING. Speed unlikely to exceed 12 knots. Route. (F.O.C. 1st B.C.S. 1254/7 to C. in C., H.F.)

Ref. A.T. 2225/6. In view of concentration of small craft on Belgian Coast and probability of a diversion in the North, do not feel inclined to rule out possibility of an operation against Iceland. Necessary to prevent landing, which can only be done by a force on the spot. REVENGE's ship's company will be recalled from leave should you require her. (1st S.L. to C. in C., H.F., 0255/7)

Adty. 0255/7 and my 1128/7 to C. in C., H.F. only. Intend sending Sunderland to Reydarfiord after her arrival at Reykjavik Am sending OLIGARCH escorted by Norwegian Patrol Vessel HONNIGSVAAG to Reydarfiord with Petrol and bombs, leaving 1800/7. 2 Walrus already operating from Reydarfiord. (N.O.I.C., Iceland, 1500/7 to C. in C., H.F.)

Convoy B.A.S. 3. to alter course 030°to starboard at 2100/7 for 3 hours, thence to 63° 25' N., 24° 50' W., whence as route ordered. (C. in C., W.A. 1500/7 to VERSATILE.)

Intend to sail NORDKAPP as additional escort to O.A. 213 12/9 as far as Cape Wrath and thence to Iceland. (C. in C., Rosyth 1625/7 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.9.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines

TITANIA — Sailed from Liverpool for Rosyth escorted by DUNCAN and MAORI. Speed 11 knots. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1030/7 to C. in C., Rosyth)

L. 26 — Intend sail S/M L. 26 for Dundee with escort Netherlands T/B Z5 at 1400/8. (A.C.O.S. 1541/7 to Capt. S. 9.)

Adty. 1833/7/7. — Western Approaches Movements. (C. in C., W.A. 1545/7.) Greenock Area Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1750/7)

TRIBUNE / TRIDENT — Escorted by PEONY, expect arrive 2300/7 All proceeding Rothesay on arrival. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1715/7 to Capt. D. 12.)

Positions — For following 24 hours at 0600/8. Area A (V.A.S. 1926/7, 2146/7 and 0119/8) Area B (V.A.S. 1728/7)

RUBIS / SUNFISH — French M/L Submarine RUBIS and SUNFISH are to proceed, submerged by day, to patrol near 54° 50' N., 3; 50' E., and 55° 10' N., 2° 40' E., respectively. (V.A.S. 2103/7)

North Sea Anti-Invasion Dispositions — See Defence of U.K.

E-Boats

Unknown E boats position 52.28 N., 2.04 E (VANITY 0155/7) My 0155. One seen, no results. (VANITY 0209/7)
One E-Boat bearing 129, distance 2 miles course 120 position 52.20 N., 2.00 E., VANITY 0300/7)
Your 0249. 52.25 N., 02.02 E., (VANITY 0326/7 to C. in C., Nore.)

STAD ALKMAAR Sunk — STAD ALKMAAR torpedoed. (Nore W/T 0219/7) Tug being sent from Yarmouth (C. in C., Nore 0249/7 to VANITY) STAD ALKMAAR sunk. Have picked up Captain and 6 of Crew. Am remaining near till daylight in hope of picking up more. (WOLSEY 0342/7 to VANITY)

/VERITY.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.9.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

E-Boats

STAD ALKMAAR Sunk, Contd.

VERITY detached to stand by vicinity of torpedoed vessel for survivors and return to Harwich. (VETERAN 0630/7 to N.O.I.C. Harwich) During E-Boat attack on Convoy F.S. 73 at 0230/7, South of 54 B. Buoy in about 52° 25' N., 2° 2' E STAD ALKMAAR was sunk. VANITY drove off other attack with 0.5 M/G fire. (C. in C., Nore, 1947/7 to Adty. VANITY reports that first E-Boat to attack was lying stopped close to 54 E Buoy concealed by glare of the light. (C. in C., Nore, 1146/9.)

British Air Activity

Air Searches

For 8/9. (C. in C., Rosyth 1844/7)

Channel Approaches

One Sunderland will patrol from dawn on 8/9 and 9/9 from Bishops Rock to South-Westward through following positions, returning to Bishops Rock. (V.A.S. 2221/7 to TRITON and TETRARCH)

FURIOUS Operation D.F

A/C bombed Danish M/V SERBJ One direct hit. Ship sinking in 61° 29' N., 5° 14' E. (Hatston 1441/7 to C. in C., H.F.)

Ostend

Between 2123 and 2300/7, 26 Hampdens attacked Barges and Shipping. Explosions and small Fires seen, but results mostly not observed. (H.Q.B.C. 1842/8)

Dunkirk

Between 2039 and 2130/7, 13 Blenheims attacked Barges. Results not observed. (H.Q.B.C., 1842/8)

Calais

At 2114/7 one Blenheim attacked Calais Harbour and started Fires (H.Q.B.C. 1842/8.)

Between 2055 and 2130/7, 11 Battles attacked Barges and Shipping at Calais. Bursts seen but not ascertained. (H.Q.B.C. 0236/9)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

7.9.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Air (Contd.)

Enemy Air Activity

London Docks — During air attacks last night H.E. and incendiary bombs were dropped near river. No H.E. fell in any of the docks. Many incendiary in King George V and Victoria Docks but except for few small fires in top floors of warehouses in Victoria Docks, easily extinguished, no damage was done. Two oil fires at Thames Haven still burning slightly. The attack yesterday was carried out by ten dive bombers. No further attacks last night. One Canadian rating from H.M.C.S. MARGAREE killed ashore on short leave is only casualty. (F.O.I.C., London, 1115/7).

Chatham — At about 0035/7 one H.E. bomb was dropped on R.N.A. Depot, Lodge Hill. Slight damage to doors and windows. No casualties. (Supt. C.E. Chatham, 0542/7 to Civil Lord)

London Docks — Very determined air attack beginning at 1705 on all Docks except Tilbury with H.E. and incendiary bombs. Large fires burning in all docks except Tilbury and damage sustained. (F.O.I.C., London, 1905/7 to Adty.)

Dover — One aircraft dropped 8 bombs in Dover Harbour and 4 in sea to Eastward at 1730/7. No damage or casualties. (V.A. Dover 1913/7 to Adty.)

Mining

Humber — Spontaneous unexplained explosion observed 4 cables North (True) from Chequer Shoal Buoy at 0542 and another 10 cables S.E. (Magnetic) from Chequer Shoal Buoy at 0552/followed by flashin sky one minute later. (F.O., Humber, 1045/7).

MOST SECRET

7.9.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining (Contd.)

NAUTILUS — Netherlands Minelayer sailed from Hartlepool 0600/7 for Humber for orders. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool, 0835/7 to Adty.) To remain in Humber till further orders. (C. in C., Nore, 1302/7).

Leith and Granton — Ports are now open. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1437/7 to Adty.)(N.O.I.C., Leith 1455/7).

SN.LL — Your 1131/3. Escort not available for 9/9. Further signal will be made when situation clears. (C. in C., H.F., 2203/7 to RAML). Escort will be available at Port ZA. pm/10. (C. in C., H.F., 1917/8 to RAML).

Fowey — One red mine detonated at 1845/7 at 165° 4.5 cables from Fowey Lighthouse. (C. in C. W.A., 1228/8 to Adty.).

Enemy Intelligence

PRU Sortie at 1130/7, shows less movement off shore and shipping in ports as follows:-

Zeebrugge	No change.
Ostend	Increase of 100 barges making a total of 300. 30 vessels forty feet in length possibly tugs or motor boats for towing which are also new arrivals. Naval Unit 280 feet long possibly coastal Defence Ship Peder Skram.
Bruges-Ostend Canal	Six tows comprising 33 barges moving towards Ostend.
Bruges	No concentration.
Nieuport	No change no concentration.
Dunkirk	In harbour an increase of 45 barges total 75. No change in the barges in the Waterways of the town. 32 barges anchored offshore.
Calais	In the Harbour are 86 barges 13 smaller vessels probably for towing and 35 small craft 45 feet. Lying off are 17 barges and 30 small vessels probably for towing.
Boulogne	No change in numbers.
Le Treport	No change no activity.
Dieppe	
Fecamp	

Le Havre.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.9.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence-Contd.

Le Havre 17 Barges arrived. 4 E boats and 6 T/Bs present.
Honfleur No change
(P.R.U. Heston 1755/7 to N.I.D.)

P.R.U. Sortie at 1100/7 shows scattered advance of second wave of barges and 60' Motor Boats as follows:-

Hollandsch Diep	16 barges
Krammer Volerak	60 boats
Zijpe and Mastgat	5 barges
Brabantsche Vaarwater	27 boats
S.Beveland Canal	7 barges
Middlegat	9 barges in tow
Terneuzen	17 barges
Terneuzen Canal	51 barges
Chent	27 barges

In Flushing there are 120 barges representing an increase of 30 since last seen.
(P.I.U. 1850/7 to N.I.D.)

Cherbourg — Further examination shows suspected E-boats more likely to be escort vessels approx 240 ft and four suspected destroyers to be approx 305 ft. (P.R.U. St. Eval, 1110/7)

Channel Is., Cherbourg — Air R/C (P.R.U. St. Eval 1755/7)

German & Danish Ports — Source again reports great German activity since September 2nd in Emden Lubeck Bremen Sassnitz and Strahlsund, also at Holder and Frederikshavn. B.2. My 1714/6 para A. One convoy of six transports, two St. Rahlsund ferry boats whilst one cruiser northward bound was heavy type with two aircraft on board. C. 4. (N.A.Stockholm 1058/7 to D.N.I.)

Zeebrugge — C. 40 ships have been reported 15 miles North of Zeebrugge at 1347 hours today, course 008 degs.
One Blenheim A/C to proceed forthwith to locate this force and report by W/T and shadow.
It is considered probably that this force may proceed N.E. up the Coast.
(A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 1522/7 to Adty.)

/Calais.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.9.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence-Contd.

Calais	4 M.T.B's and A/C of Coastal Command operated from 1230 till 0400/7 off Calais and towards Gris Nez. Nothing seen of M/V and small craft reported by Air R/C on 6/9. (V.A.Dover 1633/7 to Adty.)
Air R/C's	Summary of Air R/C on 6/9 of French and Dutch Coasts. (D.D.I.C. 1734/7)
Brittany Ports	Photos of Le Conquet Brest St Pol Roscorf Cerros Lannion Paimpol Il De Brehat St Brieve Dinard St. Malo Pilot reports 3 large M.Vs in West corner of Inner Harbour of Brest no activity in any other -Port. (P.R.U. Matston 1815/7)
Le Havre Cherbourg	P.R.U. Sortie 7/9 (P.I.U. 2325/8)
Dieppe Honfleur Rouen	P.R.U. Sortie 7/9 (P.I.U. 0245/8)
St. Nazaire Lorient	Air R/C (P.R.U. St. Eval 2300/8)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.9.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Casualties & Defects

MARSA	In collision off Altacarry, needs help quickly. (MARSA, No T.O.O./7)
PHILOTIS	My 1330/3. Approx. position PHILOTIS, 51.37 N., 05.14½ W., Position very doubtful on account of fog. (N.C.S.O., Milford Haven, 0949/7)
ALEXIA	Tanker, damaged. One extra trawler to attend, ready to sail in W.N. 14. Can only sail in fine weather, should not zigzag violently. (N.C.S.O., Clyde, 1211/7
RHODORA	A/S Yacht. Sunk at 0500/7 by collision with SS NGATIRA. One man injured. (N.O.I.C.Cardiff 0915/7 to Adty.)
THORNLEA	You may proceed to Greenock to land survivors of THORNLEA before proceeding Scapa (C. in C., W.A. 2209/7 to SKEENA)
KURDISTAN	My 1104/1. Passed Cape of Good Hope at 0030/7 bound Durban. (S.O.1. Cape Town 1104/7 to Adty.)
NEW ZEALAND	Norwegian tanker (9311 tons) left Bombay 8/8 arrived Fremantle 4/9, 10 days late (D.S. 368)
MARQUESA	(8979 tons) Milford Haven 4/8 due Buenos Aires 28/8 is overdue (D.S. 268)
SANTA MARIA	Panamanian tanker (8432 tons) Talara 15/8 due Vancouver 28/8 has not arrived (D.S. 368)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.9.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	**Shipping**
Situation	At 2000/7 (C. in C., W.A., 1412/7)
C.B. 212	Route (C. in C., W.A., 1520/7)
O.G. 42	Sailing telegram (C. in C., W.A., 1250/7 1320/7)
O.A. 211	Sails Methil 0830/8 (C. in C., Rosyth 1916/7)
H.X. 69	Escort to meet (C. in C., W.A., 1210/7)
S.L. 44	Destinations altered (D.T.D. 2131/7)
Suspicious Ships	Investigate and report unidentified vessels in Convoy 180 Portsmouth 25. (C. in C., Portsmouth to DOUGLAS 2041/7) Cancel my 2041 (C. in C., P., 2108/7)
F.N. 74	Not to leave Southend until further orders (D.T.D., 0036/7)
F.S. 75	Not to leave Methil until further orders. (D.T.D., 2216/7)
F.S. 74 } F.N. 75 }	To remain in harbour until further orders (C. in C., Nore, 2200/7)
S.C. 4	Destination (D.T.D., 2104/7)
S.L. 47	Position (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1153/7)
Port of London	Pending resumption of F.N. sailings shipping is to be kept in Port of London and is not to accumulate at Southend. Groups of small coasters are to continue sailing in daylight but are to make a Port before dark until further orders. (C. in C., Nore, 1109/7)
H.X. 69	Orders to escort, route (C. in C., W.A., 1130/7)
H.X. 68 B	DERBY COUNTY to R.V. and escort (C. in C., W.A., 0950/7) LOUGH FOYLE sailed 1100 to rejoin (Capt B. 12, 1101/7)
W.N. 13	Arrived late. Cape Wrath proceeding via Pentland Firth (DANEHAM 0205/7)
W.N. 14	A/S trawlers MAN OF WAR and ARAB sailed as escort (N.O.i/c Belfast 2035/7) Positions (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1020/7)

/H.X. 72...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.9.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping-Contd.
H.X. 72	Ocean Escort JERVIS BAY sailing 9/9 and returning to Halifax (F.O.C. 3 B.S. 1454/7
H.X. 68	Your 0853/5 and 1120/7 and my 1605/6 and 1101/7. KEPPEL still in company proceeding Liverpool (Capt. (D) 12 1930/7 to C. in C., W.A.)
M.T. 8/9	Are cancelled. BLACK SWAN, WOOLSTON VIVACIOUS to proceed so as to be off 20 Buoy 1800/8 to convoy ships from Tees, Hartlepool, Tyne and Blyth to Methil (C. in C., Rosyth 2337/7, 1838/7)
BELTOY GWENTHILLS SARNIA "CROWN"	Intend sailing 1900/7 BELTOY for Portsmouth GWENTHILLS and SARNIA for Cowes routed direct six miles south Portland expected time of arrival Needles channel 0600/8. Propose SARDONYX STURDY now at Dartmouth should escort group code word CROWN (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1034/7, 1642/7 to C. in C., W.A.)
"CROWN"	3 M.V's sailing Dartmouth eastwards 1900/7 escort SARDONYX, STURDY, code word "CROWN" (C. in C., W.A. 1700/7 to H.Q.F.C .)
SS GOTEBORG	Your 2210/6. Adty. and M.E.W. have agreed GOTEBORG may carry herrings to Petsamo but not to Gothenburg. (Hd. of M. 2039/7 to N.A. Stockholm)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

7.9.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation Menace

Situation Morocco & Senegal

Situation report French West Africa No.7; Further confirmation received that with exception of Navy French Officers Morocco are pro-British; feeling strongly in our favour in South where Foreign Legion stationed. German Commission reported arrived Casablanca 10/8. Dakar stated to be ready for Free French movement but to avoid bloodshed would prefer to wait. (D.N.I., 1615/7 to S.O., Force M.2 etc., 2117/7 to S.O. Force M.5 etc.)

OSTMARK

See South Atlantic.

South Atlantic

OSTMARK

Adty. reports OSTMARK sailed from Las Palmas night 5/6 Sept. and was proceeding towards Dakar (C. in C., S.A., 0951/7 to S.O. Force M.) Advising CUMBERLAND she had left Las Palmas believed for Dakar. Maximum possible speed 13½ knots. CUMBERLAND to search (C. in C., S.A., 0403/7).

S.S. KURDISTAN

(Reported overdue 1/9). Passed Cape of Good Hope 0030/7 bound Durban (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1104/7). Identified in 15° S. 2° W. on 29/8 bound for Durban (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1153/7).

? Raider

Captain of U.S.A. S.S. PRESIDENT VAN BUREN reports sighting a suspicious vessel at 1630/30, 7°46' S. 046°32' E. steaming 000° 12 knots.

Ship resembled SOPHIE RICKMERS with no guns visible, flying Dutch Flag, poop boxed over with wooden structure painted grey. She closed to within one mile and then resumed her course. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1510/7).

Orders to DELHI

Your 1115/5 to DELHI.
Should French Naval Force from Dakar reported in 1601/5 from CUMBERLAND arrive at Point Noire, the Senior French N.O. should be informed by Local Authorities that the town is in the hands of the Free French Forces.

This action should, if possible, be taken before the French Forces anchor.

If.....

MOST SECRET

7.9.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic (Contd.)

Orders to DELHI (Contd.) If the intention is to land forces and occupy the town this should be prevented by force if persuasion fails. If the Local Authorities consider it undesirable for anyone from the French Naval Force to make contact with the shore DELHI should endeavour to prevent it. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1957/7 to C. in C., S.A.).

Spanish Ships CALVO SOTELO Spanish Sloop left here during the night 6-7/9 destination not known, unconfirmed rumour embarkation German nationals (Santa Isabel, 0920/7 to M. of Shipping).

French Attitude Situation report. Reliably reported Pointe Noire still in process of development re organisation under Free French leadership. Vichy propaganda is being strongly pushed in Chad territory and southwards. Dakar has broadcast injunction by Monsignore Chappoullie to all vicarates and prefects apostolic in French Africa to encourage Europeans and Africans to support Vichy. (S.O.C., W. Africa, 2230/7 to W.O.)

Point Noire, DELHI. Please communicate following message most immediate to DELHI and C. in C., S.A. begins:- Larkaloat does not agree with your draft your tel. 1939/6 and asks me to transmit following begins. In no case should you engage French Naval Units even if they are ope ating against coast A.E.F., This is an affair between French men in which it is most undesirable that British should intervene However, Adty. can render signal service by convoying MOUZINHO to prevent interference by a French ship and conduct safely to Portugal officials and officers who embarked at Sazaire 8/9. Under the circumstances it is most desirable that DELHI leaves Point Noiré immediately. Ends. Repeated G.O.C. West Africa. (C. G. Leopoldville, 2021/7 to Adty.)

My 1629/6. SIDI-FERRUCH still at Libreville am/5. Authorization of a bunk sloop at Bata same day. There is no oil fuel available at Point Noire or in River Congo. I have sufficient fuel remaining for present use and return to Lagos. Owing to underwater growth R.F.A. LXCIGEN should not be expected to exceed six knots. (DELHI, 2112/7 to C. in S.A.).

MOST SECRET

7.9.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic (Contd.)

ARGUS	Should return to U.K. as soon as possible, proceeding to Clyde. (D.O.D.(F) 2347/7 to C. in C., S.A.).
	Please communicate following to DELHI. Most immediate, begins. My 2021/7. In view of French attitude presume you will discuss important question of policy involved with C. in C., Trust I shall be informed of final decision. (C.G. Leopoldville, 2255/7).
NARVAL	Commences working up 9/9. Asking what her future employment is to be (V.A. Malta, 1117/7 to C. in C., Med.)
Tunis	Cdt. Robert to de Gaulle. Necessary to forecast possible British Fleet or Air Force support for national rallying movement in Tunis, if requested, should means of defence in Tunis be insufficient to cope with Italian reactions.
Syria	I hope for a national rallying movement in Syria shortly. (Governor Malta, 2030/7).
Air raid on Malta	Air raid 1230. Dockyard bombed, small fires caused and some damage done to buildings. Somerset wharf hit. Slight damage to OLYMPUS in dock. Tug HELLESPONT sunk, also a picket boat. 2 minor casualties as raid was luckily after dockyard working hours. Houses damaged, civilian casualties. Enemy strength 11 bombers 24 fighters. 2 enemy bombers probably shot down by our fighters.
Cable	Attempt to cut Syracuse Tripoli cable last night unsuccessful. Another attempt being made tonight. (N.O.I.C., Malta, 2031/7 Governor 2125/7).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

7.9.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (Contd.)

French Colony, Istanbul — Marked change in the attitude of French Colony Istanbul which from defeatism and intense hostility to British now admits that France's best hope is our victory. A Pro De Gaulle Movement is being canvassed. (S.O.I., Istanbul, 1615/7).

STUREBORG A.S.3 — My 1901/6, A.S.3, 5 ships arrived. Commodore reports Swedish STUREBORG parted company during night of 3-4/9 in approx. 36.40 N., 24° E. (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1037/7).

French Ships, Beirut — My 1711/5. Admiral Gouton at Beirut has asked me via Admiral Godfroy whether I would be prepared to grant safe conduct to French Ships repatriating troops from Syria provided information of dates and route was given. He has been informed that matter must be referred to H.M. Govt. My own view is that request should be granted but desirable to arrange some check to ensure that neither supplies nor equipment are sent in the ships. Suggest call at Haifa for contraband control. (C. in C., Med., 1301/7).

Air

Raids 6/9 — R.A.F. Operational Summary No.89 period ending 1200/7. Enemy raids on Matruh 1030/6, some military casualties. One S.79 flew over Alexandria 1245/6, no bombs, one Hurricane 274 Sqdn. failed to intercept. 5 unidentified enemy aircraft approached Haifa 25,000 ft., level attack 18,000 ft. Bombs in harbour and harbour entrance. No damage, no casualties. A.A. guns opened fire, no hits. Aircraft failed to intercept. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1059/7).

East Indies

Attack on Convoy BN.14 — Your 2117/6. Scale of attack is not more than I have expected for a long time but I am very grateful for COVENTRY. S.N.O. Red Sea issue sailing orders to COVENTRY from Suez. (C. in C., E.I., 0510Z/7 to C. in C., Med.)

MOST SECRET

7.9.40.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies (Contd.)

Shipping in Indo China

Satisfactory assurance that British and Allied shipping will not be interfered with has been given by French Indo China and consequently out ships are now allowed to trade there. Is there any hope yet of Madagascar Authorities giving same assurance which would lead to our mutual benefit. (C. in C., E.I., 0514/7 to B.C. Antananarivo).

SHOREHAM Evacuation of White and Senegalese troops from Jibuti

Left 0430Z. (N.O.I.C. Port Sudan 0616Z/7). My 1848Z/6 is to remain in abeyance (1st S.L. 2319/7 to S.N.O., Red Sea).

Leakage

(1) Re ROYAL SOVEREIGN (see Operations Volume).

(2) During recent passage BN.4 A.O., C. in C R.A.F. M.E. reported that Addis Ababa had received information that twenty ships were to arrive at Aden 31/5 from India. Information was inaccurate except for number of ships. On enquiries F.O.C.R.I.N. reports that HECTOR (escort) sighted YAMABUKI MARU 28/8 on passage. It appears that this ship was the possible source of leakage as only sixteen ships left Bombay, four joining from Karachi. On the other hand MOGOMAGAWA MARU entered Bombay searched channel as BN.4 was leaving and may have given approx. number of ships to Consul for transmission. (C. in C., E.I., 0756/7).

China

Trade

M. of S. representative at Calcutta learns local agents of Messageries Maritimes are offering four French ships now at Saigon D'ARTAGNAN, MARECHAL JOFFRE, YALOU, SI KIANG on time-charter to British India Steam Navigation Company. Without directly approaching the French authorities request you will ascertain the prospects of local French Authorities releasing their ships to trade locally for British interests under the French flag. (D.T.D., 2002/7 to C. in C., China).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

7.9.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

China (Contd.)

French Troop Transport — Following from Governor General. In order to reinforce defence of Indo-China I am endeavouring to arrange shipment to Saigon of certain French troops now in Djibouti. In view of importance of this reinforcement under present circumstances I will be grateful if you will guarantee free passage for troop transports. (L.O., Saigon, 0353/7).

America and West Indies

DIOMEDE — (Cdr. W.I.) Programme for visit to La Guara, Cartagena, Colon, Kingston. See C. in C., A.W.I., 1301/26/8. (C. in C., A.W.I., XX 1551/7).

French West Indian Is. — Your 1111/4. De Gaulle will accept any suitable Governor who will rally the islands to his cause. British Govt. will give evonomic facilities. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1954/7 to C. in C., A.W.I.). Adty. have no knowledge of grandiose proposals you refer to (1st S.L. 2346/7 to C. in C., A.W.I.)

S.C.4 — Destinations. (D.T.D., 2104/7 to N.C.S.O., Sydney, C.B.).

U.S. Destroyers — First 8 U.S. destroyers will be commissioned by R.N. am Monday 9th and organized in two divisions. First division HERNDON (D one), A.P. UPSHUR (D five). W.C. WOOD (D three), WELLES (D seven). 2nd division AARON WARD (D two), CROWNINSHIELD (D six), HALE (D four), BUCHANAN (D eight).

Figures in brackets above show D, S draft reference and Second Sea Lord reference for Officers. Ships are not fitted with American asdics. Endurance. First division long. end division short. Long endurance means 4,000 miles at 10 knots 3500 at 15. Short endurance means 3575 at 10 knots 3000 at 15. (Date of sailing). 8 destroyers due Halifax 18/9, are fitted with American asdics. Names are 3rd Division, COWELL, MADDOX, FOOTE, KALK. 4th division, HOPEWELL, ABBOTT, THOMAS, DORKIN. (? DORSEY). Endurance. All short. (F.O.C., 3 B.S., 1902/7).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

7.9.40.
Saturday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

OSTMARK	Advising CUMBERLAND she had left Las Palmas, believed for Dakar. Maximum possible speed 13½ knots. CUMBERLAND to search. (C. in C., S.A., 0403/7). See also South Atlantic).
SOPHIE RICKMERS	See South Atlantic.
EUROFELD	Tanker, posible enemy supply ship. Sailed from Teneriffe 2000/3 loaded with gas oil and may be met with on S.A. Station. Description (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1756/7).
BRAKE	Tanker, at Vigo. Reported to be discharging lubricating oil at the quay. (D.S. 368). See also 22/8).
IDARWALD	According to intercepted letter has trans-hipped 1271 tons of phosphates to PHRYGIA at Tampico. (D.S. 368).
MELILLA	Left for Bilbao. (V. Consul, Gijon, 1930/7).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

TORCELLO	Left for Batoum in ballast, or perhaps first Constanza for docking. (Varna, 1703/5 recd. 1147/7).
TERESA	At Rio de Janeiro. Has been placed under embargo on account of debt to A.P.Co., New York. (D.S. 368).
CONTE BIANCAMANO	Took in 800 tons oil fuel 4/9. (S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica 1518/7).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

7.9.40.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

0526	58.27 N., 17.27 W. CANFORD CHINE reports submarine in vicinity. (Portishead Radio, 0531/7)(C. in C., W.A., 0603/7);
1100	Submarine sighted on surface 2 miles N. of Skaw, 60.50 N., 00.45 W., course E. (C.3). (F.O.C.O.S., 1340/7).
2106 B.S.T.	By D/F, in area 57°31' to 58°0' N. and 13°0' to 15°0' W. (D.D.I.C., 2215/7).
0531	S.S. CANFORD CHINE (in convoy S.C.2) reported U-boat near. Position 58°27' N., 17°27' W. (D.S. 368). Between 1024/6 and 0726/7 there were a number of indefinite indications suggesting that a U-boat was near convoy S.C.2.
Estimated U/B dispositions	1 reaching N.W. Approaches from the Southward. 3 in N.W. Approaches of which 1 may have been in 57°14' N., 15°25' W. before 0008/7. No recent news of the other two. Also 1 may have been in 58°27' N., 17°27' W. at 0531/7. 1 may be still farther W. There may now be patrols in the North Sea especially in the Firth of Forth and Moray Firth areas. (D.D.I.C., 1200/7).

Submarines Attacked

0008	Attacked firm contact in approx. 57.14 N., 15.25 W. now lost, am joining S.C.2. PERIWINKLE to remain in vicinity till one hour after daylight. (WESTCOTT, 0008/7). Continue hunt with PERIWINKLE until further orders. (C. in C., W.A., 0221/7, to WESTCOTT and SCIMITAR).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

8.9.40.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Action against barges

M.T.Bs 29 and 6 sent to reconnoitre shipping lying off Calais reported a small number of barges at 0109 today. Both M.T.Bs fired one torpedo and claim hits and they machine gunned at close quarters a tug which was under way.

M.T.Bs 71 and 72 sent to Boulogne had to return owing to stress of weather.

ATHERSTONE, BEAGLE, SALADIN and BULLDOG left Portsmouth at 2045/7 to search for enemy vessels reported south of the Nab, and afterwards to attack concentration of small craft reported off Calais by M.T.B. It was not possible to get as far as Calais and a sweep was made between Boulogne and Cap Blanc Nez. Nothing was sighted and the batteries at Cape Gris Nez did not open fire.

East Coast Convoys

The general intention as regards East Coast Convoys at present is that northbound convoys may be sailed but that shipping should not be brought south of the Humber.

On resumption of East Coast Convoys C. in C. Nore intends to adopt certain rearrangement of their programmes according as the danger from E-boat attack or air attack is the greater.

British Air Operations

Night 7/8 Sept.

All aircraft detailed to attack barges and shipping in the Channel ports last night found that haze and searchlight activity rendered location of targets and observation of results very difficult.

Calais and Boulogne harbours were successfully attacked, as also were barges at Dunkirk.

Weather rendered the hourly flare reconnaissances carried out on barge concentrations from Boulogne to Ostend almost ineffective.

26 Hampdens successfully attacked barges in Ostend harbour. One aircraft claims 8 direct hits on 60 large barges in the Basin.

War Diary

MOST SECRET

8.9.40.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Operations (Contd.)

Day 8/9

During the day, bombs were dropped on Dunkirk and Boulogne harbours. One aircraft unsuccessfully attacked a convoy with 6 destroyers N.W. of Terschelling.

The afternoon patrol was extended to within sight of the coast of Norway. Nothing was sighted.

PRU flights to the Channel ports were made several times today.

Enemy Air Activity

Last night, attacks extending over many hours covered a considerable area of London and were of an intense nature. Major damage is reported in many areas.

Attacks on the London Docks by H.E. and incendiary bombs continued up to 0430 today. At 0810 Surrey Commercial Docks was still burning fiercely. King George V eastern end burning. Harland and Woolf's Works and other firms are seriously damaged. Serious damage in Silvertown (reported the area is to be evacuated being a "raging inferno") and Millwall, also the Anglo American Oil works at Purfleet (fire out of control). Many barges on fire and adrift. Damage was done at the Dockyard and Arsenal at Woolwich. H.M.O.B.V. INKOS and ANANDA were hit and H.M. Trawler ABRONIA (fitting out) was hit and sunk; the two former became total wrecks from fire, but salvage of the ABRONIA is in hand.

Dover was attacked but no military damage was caused.

Several attacks on shipping took place in St. George's Channel, between the Smalls and Bardsey Island. HESPERUS and WOLVERINE on passage to Portsmouth were unsuccessfully attacked.

STORK of the Rosyth Escort Force was torpedoed by an aircraft in Methil Roads this evening and was taken in tow by VERDUN. S.S. STAD VLAARDINGEN was torpedoed by an enemy aircraft in Methil Roads about 2230/8.

War Diary

MOST SECRET

8.9.40.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity (Contd.)

S.S. EMPIRE BISON was attacked at 0610 340 miles West of Ireland. The furthest westerly point at which enemy aircraft have attacked shipping.

Mining

Enemy minelaying aircraft were operating off the East coast last night.

A mine was detonated in the Thames Estuary off East Tongue Buoy.

Mediterranean

The Syracuse-Tripoli (Africa) cable has been cut.

Some damage was done to the oil installation at Haifa in an airraid today. There were no casualties, as the installation was closed down at the time.

No Naval or military damage resulted from an air raid on Alexandria this evening.

East Indies

There was an air raid on Port Sudan today, but no damage was caused. Some damage was done in an air raid yesterday.

Two Blenheims successfully bombed Assab.

War Diary

MOST SECRET

8.9.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Dover Block-Ship — My 1201/7. Request S.S. RUTH KELLOGG may be fitted as a Block-Ship before arrival. (V.A. Dover, 1026/8 to Adty.)

Enemy Units — There are indications from W/T activity that German Naval Units may have passed or been about to pass into North Sea from Skagerrack early 8/9. Graded B.3. (D.D.I.C. 1224/8 to Cs in C.).

Richborough — Intend to block Richborough pm/9. (V.A. Dover 1731/8 to Adty.)

Policy

Sheerness as Cruiser Base — It would be reasonable to expect a heavy air attack on GALATEA and AURORA during next few days. The distances of our Ports from French Coast are Sheerness 50 miles, Harwich 55 miles, Portsmouth 70 miles, Plymouth 95 miles. These differences are so small that Sheerness seems as good as any other if Cruisers are to be kept anywhere S. of Humber. (C. in C., Nore, 0956/8 to Adty.)

French Warships — I have ready for service three French torpedo boats, two chasseurs, and two sloops, CHEVREUIL and CAPRICIEUSE, manned by R.N. crews. I have received orders to pay off the sloops at once and the others shortly and to hand them over to the French. Submit that the French should prove their ability to man ships by first bringing LEOPARD and LA MELPOMENE into service before we surrender others. Otherwise I anticipate this port being full of French ships which are useless as they are not manned. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1247/8 to Adty.)
My 1017/21, 1205/6, and 2018/7. CHEVREUIL and CAPRICIEUSE are to remain at Portsmouth until re-commissioned by Free French Navy. (D.O.D.H. 1248/8 to C. in C., Portsmouth).

Routeing of Ocean Shipping — Transferred from C. in C., W.A. to Adty. Procedure to be followed. (A.C.N.S.T., 1946/8).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

8.9.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations (Contd.)

M.T.B's 29 and 6 sent to reconnoitre shipping lying off Calais reported a small number of barges at 0109 this Sunday morning both fired one torpedo and claim hits and they machine gunned at close quarters a tug which was under way.

M.T.B. 71 and 72 sent to Boulogne had to return owing to stress of weather.

No report yet received from ATHERSTONE. (V.A. Dover, 0740/8 to Adty.)

Bombardment of Calais and Boulogne

2nd C.S. prepare for Night Bombardment of Calais and Boulogne, tonight, one ship to each place. Object, destruction of barges. Each ship to be accompanied by destroyers to sweep inshore and attack any ships or barges at anchor outside the ports. (1st S.L. 1210/8 to C. in C., Nore). This operation is to be carried out weather permitting. (1st S.L. 1851/8 to C. in C. Nore). Calais and Boulogne are to be lit up with Flares between 0230 and 0245/9. 2 Ansons to be over Boulogne at 0225/9 and 2 more over Calais (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 2020/8 to Adty.)

Operation PQ

To intercept any E-boats returning from East Coast at 2300/8 through 52°13' N. 2°30' E. Operation ordered. (C. in C., Nore, 1156/8 to Cdre. Sheerness). Cancelled (C. in C., Nore, 1215/8 to Cdre. Sheerness).

Sweep of French Coast

Portsmouth destroyers prepare to sweep along coast from Le Touquet to S.W. tonight 8/9. (1st S.L. 1630/8 to C. in C. Portsmouth). ATHERSTONE take FERNIE, BERKELEY, BEAGLE and BULLDOG under his orders and proceed at 1900/8 to sweep S.W. from Le Touquet starting near 50°26' N. 1°23' E. to destroy Enemy small craft. Return to be off Nab Tower by 0600/9 and return to Portsmouth. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1846/8 to ATHERSTONE) Carry out this operation weather permitting. (A.C.N.S.H. 1905/8 to C. in C., Portsmouth).

Dunkirk

One unit of 70 foot M.T.Bs to leave Harwich as requisite to establish silent-engine patrol near Dunkirk C.W. Buoy from 2200/8, to intercept E-boats, barges, or other enemy vessels. Be clear of coast by first light and return base by same route. (C. in C., Nore 1720/8 to S.O.,M.T.Bs Felixstowe)(D.S.O. 1913/8 to Air Ministry).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

8.9.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations (Contd.)

Dutch Coast — One unit of 60 foot M.T.Bs to sweep Zuydecote Pass and the Druogte Van Schooneveld tonight 8/9 to destroy enemy vessels. Be 25 miles clear of coast by first light. (C. in C., Nore, 1722/8 to S.O.M.T.Bs Felixstowe)(D.C. 1832/8 to C. in C., Portsmouth and H.Q.C.C.).

Iceland W/T Communications — Your 2344/4. Detailed Report. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 2206/8 to A.C.O.S.).

Submarines

Dutch Submarines — O.22 and O.23 pass Bell Rock 0730/8. Routes after. (Capt. S.9. 0031/8). (C. in C., Rosyth, 0102/8).

MAIDSTONE — V.A.S. 1256/3. Request your forecast of date when MAIDSTONE ready to sail from Rosyth. (C. in C., H.F. 1031/8 to C. in C., Rosyth). Provisional date of readiness for sea pm/12. Request necessary escort may be provided for passage. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1323/8 to C. in C., H.F.).

Adty. 1833/7/7 — Western Approaches Movements (C. in C., W.A., 1435/8). Greenock Area Movements (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1740/8).

Positions — For following 24 hours at 0600/9 in area A (V.A.S., 1547/8 and 2117/8) Area B (V.A.S. 1548/8).

Dutch S/m 021 — To leave patrol 2300/9. Route (Capt. S.9 1831/8 to 021).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

8.9.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

Cardiff — Approval given to re-site Balloon Barrage and fly 3 balloons from Buoys. Request you arrange. (D. of L.D. 1815/8 to F.O.I.C. Cardiff).

Air searches — For 9/9. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1916/8).

Patrol MOON 3 — To be flown during present Moon starting tonight 8/9, between 50° N., 3° W., and 49°30' N., 5° W. Each Patrol to last about 2 hours. (A.C.H.Q. Plymouth, 1934/8).

Operation CEILING — My 0141/17th August. Operation ALERT. Amend title to read CEILING. (R.A.N.A.S. 2025/8).

Enemy Air Activity

London and Docks — Continuous air attacks with heavy H.E. bombs and incendiaries up till 0430 this morning. Surrey Commercial docks still burning fiercely. King George V Eastern end burning. Harland and Woolf's works seriously damaged also other firms. Serious damage in Silvertown and Millwall also to Anglo-American Oil at Purfleet. Many barges on fire and adrift. Nine tugs hired to look after them. Am collecting information regarding H.M. ships and others. All that is known so far O.B.V. INKOSI was hit. H.M. Trawler ABRONIA hit and sunk. Officers now investigating. Will inform you as soon as possible. (F.O.I.C. London, 0810/8 to Adty.).

Harland and Woolf repair shops in King George V. docks extensively damaged by bombs. Out of action one month. INKOSI and ANANDA total wrecks by fire caused by bombs. LL trawler ABRONIA sunk by bomb. Salvage in hand, and 4 AP. ratings unaccounted for. (F.O.I.C. London 2145/8 to Adty.)
My 2145/8. This refers to night 7/8. (F.O.I.C. London 2238/8 to Adty.)

Enemy aircraft bombing at 52°40' N. 5°42' W. (WOLVERINE, 1615/8). 8 bombs. No hits. (WOLVERINE, 1531/8 to C. in C., W.A.)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

8.9.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity

Dover — Enemy aircraft dropped 10 bombs across Western Heights at 1200/8. No casualties or military damage. (V.A. Dover 1732/8 to Adty.)

St. George's Channel — Several more Air attacks have taken place today between Smalls and Bardsey Island. Request reply to my 2331/24th Aug. (C. in C. W.A. 1957/8 to Adty.)

EMPIRE BISON — (5612 tons) attacked at 0610, 340 miles West of Ireland. (D.S. 370).

STORK — Hit by bomb aft. Request tug immediately. (STORK 2110/8 to C. in C., Rosyth).
Am taking STORK in tow. (VERDUN 2125/8 to C. in C., Rosyth). My 0011/9. STORK was torpedoed and not bombed. (C. in C., Rosyth, 0747/9).
Enemy aircraft attacked shipping in Methil Roads by moonlight tonight 8/9. STORK being hit by a bomb and one merchant vessel torpedoed. As no previous warning was given of approach of these aircraft it is probable that they made their approach flying low and that they carried out their attack with enginges shut off. In view of their success tonight there can be little doubt that the enemy will continue his attacks. As the convoy anchorage is at present completely devoid of any form of A/A protection and there is no alternative convoy anchorage in the Forth it is considered essential that a balloon barrage both ashore and afloat should be provided forthwith. The convoy anchorage at Methil also lends itself to magnetic mining and a balloon barrage would help to defeat this menace as well as that of bombs and aerial torpedoes. (C. in C., Rosyth, 0011/9).

STAD VLAARDINGEN — Dutch S.S. STAD VLAARDINGEN torpedoed from air in Methil Roads about 2230/8 and in sinking condition. Tug proceeding to endeavour to beach ship. Sea calm and little wind. Crew of 55 reported all safe. Master and 14 of crew standing by ship in boat remainder in ALGORAB will be landed am/9. (N.O.I.C. Methil, 0041/9).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

8.9.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Thames Estuary — One Red Mine detonated by sweepers at 0200/8 in position 305° East Tongue Bucy 1.2 miles. (C. in C., Nore, 1107/8 to Adty.)

SN.41 — Portponed. (R.A.M.L. 2121/8 to Adty.). My 2004/6 and 2121/8. Propose to carry out operation SN.41 at same time on 11/9 if you concur. (R.A.M.L. 2222/8 to C. in C., W.A.). Concur. (C. in C., W.A., 0950/9 to Adty.)

Enemy Intelligence

Calais — Closer examination shows that steamer concentration off Calais has not left as reported on signal of 7/9. Area outside harbour not wholly covered but twelve steamers west of entrance are in approx. same positions. Among these, one steamer and a motor boat are moving. (PIU 1125/8 to N.I.D.).
At 0735/8, PRU shows 6 small stationary steamers at East of Harbour entrance and 2 moving East, also 2 barges. West of harbour entrance 9 stationary groups, each of one small vessel and 2 barges. One small steamer also present. (PIU. 1440/8 to N.I.D.).

M/Vs off Teignmouth — 8 small M/Vs reported 20 miles S.W. of Teignmouth steering 290°. Aircraft has been sent to investigate. (C. in C., W.A. 1251/8 to Capt. D.9).

Unknown Enemy Unit — At 1520/8 an unknown Enemy Unit, probably surface craft, at 52° N., 3° 20' E. D/F fix, unreliable. (D.D.I.C. 1604/8 to C. in C., Nore).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

8.9.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Norwegian Coast — R/C of coast between 0715 and 0900/8 from 62°15' N. to 62°40' N. 13 M/Vs and one tanker observed. The tanker about 2000 tons, one M/V about 6000 tons, one about 3500 tons, one 2500 tons, one 2000, the rest smaller. (Donibristle, 1215/8). At 0825/8 outside Beian Harbour one M/V about 2000 tons at anchor, and in approach to Trondheim Fiord one M/V about 1000 tons steering 140° at 6 knots. (Donibristle 1310/8). At 1830/8 in 60°27' N., 5°6' E. one M/V 2500 tons steering south, and at 60°28' N. 5°2' E. at 1835/8 one M/V 1000 tons steering North. (Donibristle 2225/9).

Cherbourg — PRU. Sortie at 0815/8 shows no change. (PIU 1645/8).

French Coast — PRU. Sortie at 1100/8 shows procession of about 35 tugs, trawlers, and small coasters eastbound from Dunkirk to Ostend. (PIU. 1730/8 to N.I.D.)

Calais Roads — 26 steamers and 14 barges at anchor at 1100/8. (PIU 1730/8 to N.I.D.).

Unknown Enemy Units — At 1858/8 in 52°30' N. 3°30' E. Probable surface craft. D/F fix, unreliable. ((D.D.I.C. 2001/8 and 1930/8 to C. in C., Nore). At 1908/8, D/F bearings indicate surface unit between Stavanger and Bergen. (D.D.I.C., 2103/8).

Flashing Light Buoy — Reported in 52°50' N. 3°30' E. at 1920/8. (Chatham, 2220/8 to H.Q.C.C.).

Danish Fishing Vessels — At 1726/8 in 55°4' N. 5°50' E. 15 Fishing Vessels flying Danish flag, 6 anchored and 9 under way. (Donibristle, 2010/8).

Enemy Destroyers — 3 miles West of Egmond Aan Zee at 1034/8, 9 or 10 ships believed to be destroyers, [illegible] heading West. (H.Q.B.C. 0236/9).

Mouth of Maas — At 1200/8 in 51°55' N. 3°52' E. a stationary cruiser about 10,000 tons. (H.Q.B.C. 0236/9).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

8.9.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Norderney

At 1335/8, 4 destroyers side by side at Quayside. (H.Q.B.C. 0236/9).

At YZNF 2050 0940 hrs. convoy of ten ships possibly cargo ships escorted by six destroyers light grey in colour in two groups of three circling behind convoy proceeding 120° line astern. Destroyers took evasive action and opened fire with light flak. Den Holder Basin 1050 hrs. one ship believed to be transport with small vessel alongside. Five miles north of Ostend 1200 hrs. convoy of fifteen medium sized ships in line astern leading towards Calais. Ostend Harbour 1220 hrs. twenty barges also three just North of Harbour mouth. Between Norderney and Juist 1327 to 1337 hrs. 3 apparent cargo vessels 7/8000 tons also 25/30 merchant vessels 5/6000 tons all at anchor with no steam up. Three miles west of Norderney QEWT hrs. three small cargo ships proceeding west. YZNF 0820 hrs. three medium merchant vessels heading east. YZMF 0015 1342 hrs. three cargo ships one torpedo boat appeared stationary. Between Ostend and Nieuport 1225 hrs. four slipways or barges diagonal to water on beach at waters edge. CPTA 3518 1655 hrs. convoy 20/25 small merchant vessels stationary. CPTA 3050 1700 hrs. 40/50 barges in inlet in Flushing area. Off Blankenburge 1640 hrs. three strings of four barges with ship at head of each at anchor. Boulogne 1808 hrs. eight barges apparently moving under own power leaving the outer harbour; two large tugs abreast some distance ahead. Three large merchant ships stationary one mile south west of Boulogne. One medium sized merchant ship in outer harbour. Le Touquet 1810hrs. 1500 ft. six barges beached on south side of La Canche river.

Casualties & Defects

BENVRACKIE

My 1538/28/8. Passed Cape of Good Hope 0505Z/3. (S.O.I., Cape Town, 0835/8 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

8.9.1940
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	**Shipping**
O.A. 209	To alter course at 2100/8 for 3 hours. (C. in C., W.A., 1550/8)
Fast Liners	Intend sailing fast liner convoys every 4 days from 14/9, minimum speed 15 knots (F.O.I.C., Liverpool 1758/8)
F.N. 77 A) F.N. 77 B)	Code word "Pilot" to leave Thames 0600 and 0800, speed 8 knots and 7 knots. (C. in C., Rosyth 1746/8)
O.B. 210	Sailed 0430/8 (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1016/8 1017/8) SKATE and SHIKARI to join. (C. in C., W.A., 1203/8)
O.A. 213	NORDKAPP (additional escort) delayed owing D.G. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1553/8)
O.B. 209	To alter course at 2100/8 for 3 hours. (C. in C., W.A., 1600/8) ST. KENAN and ST.LOMAN to shadow (C. in C., W.A., 1430/8)
M.T. & F.S. 75	Cancelled tomorrow (C. in C., Rosyth 2337/8)
O.B. 212	WITCH required as escort (C. in C., W.A. 0717/8)
H.X. 68	My 1930/7 re KEPPEL with H.X. 68. Intend to return to Clyde when entrance of Greenock Swept Channel (Capt. D.12 0655/8) Proceeding on Route P. (ST. LAURENT, 1020/8) (A.C.O.S., 1230/8)
"Crown"	Arrived, escorted by STURDY and SARDONYX (C. in C., Portsmouth, 0837/8)
"Hatch"	Code word for convoy from Tees (C. in C., Rosyth 0958/8, 1524/8)
O.A. 211	List and destination (N.C.S.O. Methil 0935/8)
OLIGARCH	Escorted by Norwegian HONNINGVAAG, sailed with petrol and bombs for Reydarfjord, South about at 0020. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 0030/8, 0930/8)
ALEXIA	Tug SABINE as extra escort (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1232/8) (N.C.S.O. Greenock, 1125/8)

Ocean Routes.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

8.9.1940.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping-Contd.

Ocean Routes

Admty. 0137/4. Procedure for transferring routeing of ocean-going shipping from C. in C., W.A., to Admty. to come into force at an early date. (D.T.D., 1946/8)

PROTESILAUS

Your 1813/6. Sails 1730/8 in tow of two tugs. Impossible give reliable time of arrival Scapa. (N.C.S.O. Greenock to C. in C., W.A., 1459/8) My 1469 Sailing postponed, weather. (N.C.S.O., Greenock 1716/8)

East Coast Convoys

General intention is that northbound convoys may be sailed, but shipping should not be brought south of the Humber. (D.T.D., 1208/8)

On resumption of E. coast convoys intend to adopt following measure to counter E.Boat attack. F.S. convoys appear to be most endangered probably because ships are laden.
For the first few days F.S. convoy programme south of Flamborough be three hours late as air attack is less likely than E.Boats. F.N. Vonvoy must sail two hours late.

When danger from air attack makes it necessary revert to present programme and open the Would for F.S. convoys. Convoy not to pass Sheringham light float before dark. Thereafter ring the changes between the three channels accepting reduced minesweeping efficiency pro tem. Augment escorts as found possible and place M.T.B. striking Force in the unused night channel. C. in C., Rosyth concurs. (C. in C., Nore, 1144/8)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

8.9.1940.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

General

Blockade of French Colonies

A communique issued last night from the headquarters of General de Gaulle announces the raising of the blockade of those French colonies which have declared their attachment to the Free French Empire. (Press 8/9)

North Atlantic

Raider Intelligence

Your 2001/4. Report of TRUANT of interception Norwegian ship TROPIC SEA with German prize crew on board.
SS. HAXBY was sunk by raider April 24 position 031° 30' N., 051° 30' W., and SS TROPIC SEA captured by same raider June 18 position 028° 48' S., 166° 04' W. These ships were the only two intercepted by raider up to June 30. Raider is identical in appearance to Hamburg American Line ships KURMARK, UCKERMARK with exceptions, and has name ORION on stern in raised letters painted over. Raider carries at least one aircraft. Raider refuelled from oiler WINNETOU on May 9 and June 21 and WINNETOU still in company of raider June 30 but by then practically in ballast. One June 16 another vessel was alongside raider but only clue to identify was that ship had Asiatic crew. Raider laid mines in South African waters May 2 and in New Zealand waters June 12. TROPIC SEA parted company with raider June 30 and rounded Cape Horn July 24. Impression gained by Masters of HAXBY and TROPIC SEA as result of conversation with German crew that raider was returning to Indian Ocean and would not be returning to Germany for long period. (F.O.C.N.A., 1046/8 to Admty.)

South Atlantic

French Sloop

-BOUGAINVILLE class sloop, 16.06 N., 17.47' W., 180°, 10 knots. (CUMBERLAND to C. in C., S.A. 0806Z/8)

ARGUS

Asking if should return with SHEFFIELD or sail independently. (C. in C., S.A. 1307/8)

/DELHI.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

8.9.1940
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

DELHI

Admty. 1957/7 and 0231/8. De Gaulle representatives agree that wishes of Larminat should be carried out. DELHI should therefore be withdrawn from Pointe Noire. Desirable she should remain in the Cameroon Area and suggest Lagos might be suitable.

The escorting of Portuguese ship cannot be carried out- F.O. have informed C.O. Leopoldville. (D.O.D. (F) 1758/8) Orders to DELHI (C. in C., S.A., 1830/8)

French Force

Cruiser PRIMAUGUET, 2 destroyers and 1 oiler, 18.27 N., 17.40 W., 180° 12 knots (CUMBERLAND, 1816/Z/8) (C. in C., S.A. 1858/8)

Aircraft

Admty. 2301/4, para (V) Anson aircraft available Capetown eight, Durban six, Port Elizabeth four. With a view as to conservation of aircraft regular patrols are not maintained. Patrols are instituted for special reason such as adjacent raider report sometimes as far as 180 miles south of Cape Point. Approaches of troop convoys are searched and constant anti-submarine patrols maintained while transports are in open anchorages. Aircraft are under control of Fortress Commander and most willing close co-operation has always been received. (N.O.I.C., Simonstown, 1029/8)

DRAGON

My 0940/4. DRAGON now available for sea four hours' notice. (N.O.I.C., Simonstown, 1939/8)

DELHI

Situation with Larminat at Brazzaville. Under circumstances, intend to leave Point Noire after French ship CAP PADARAN probably 9/9 but certain 10/9. (DELHI to C. in C., S.A., 1359/8) (See Operations Volume)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

8.9.1940.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

STUREBORG — Swedish ship. My 1037/7. Arrived. (N.O.I.C., Port Said, 0834/8)

Alexandria — Details of onstructions. Harbour entrance can be closed by a boom gate. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 1231/8)

Turkish Ferry Boats — My 1502/28. First 2 Ferry boats ready to leave about 9/9. Journey to Egypt via cape about 2 months. (Hd. of M., to N.A.Angora, 1610/9)

NARVAL — To work from Malta for patrol, but available for landing French personnel in North Africa as required. (C. in C., Med. 1229/8)

Operation B.S. — Positions and submarines employed. (Capt. S.I., 1455/8)

French Forces — Message for transmission to General de Gaulle from Commandant Robert. (Govr., Malta, to W.O., 1310/8)

Cable Cut — Syracuse-Tripoli (Africa) cable cut in approx. 35° 49.5' N., 14° 58.5' E. (V.A.Malta, 1337/8)

Air

Air Report — H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., Operational Summary No 90 period ending 1200/8 Para 1 Egypt 7/9 no bombing operations. 1600 hours, 113 Squadron reconnaissance Eastern Cyrenaica. Tobruk 6 large ships, 20 aircraft new landing ground there. No shipping between Ras El Memeta and Bardia. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1016/8)

Haifa Raid — Air Raid on Haifa 1445 today Sunday 8th September Seven Savoias about 18000 ft approached from North East over Syria. About 100 bombs were dropped in C.R.L. Area. A certain amount of damage to installation but no refined oil tanks hit. Production will probably not be seriously interfered with. There were no casualties as installation was fortunately closed down at this particular time otherwise damage and casualties would probably have been heavy. (N.O.I.C., Haifa 1940/8)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

8.9.1940.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Air, Contd.

Alexandria Raid	Air Raid 2000 to 2145. Probably 9 enemy but only 3 attacked. 9 bombs. 9 Egyptians injured with flying glass, no other casualties H.Q.Middle East please pass to Ambassador. (R.A. Alexandria, 0900/9)

East Indies

Aircraft Carrier Red Sea	Your 0707/6 employment of carrier for protection Red Sea Convoys has been discussed with Admiralty and view is held that should this become necessary arrangements can best be made between C. in C., Mediterranean, C. in C., East Indies and yourself. (Air Min, 1645/8, to H.Q., R.A.F., M.E.)
Troop Transport	My 1302/3 and your 2307/4. Intend using TALAMBA to lift 950 and sail B.N. 5½ Remaining personnel will sail in B.N.6. (S.S.T.O. India to D. of S.T., 0830Z/8)
LLANGIBBY CASTLE	Left Mombasa 1555 G.M.T. (troop transport) (N.O.I.C., Kilindini 1720Z/8)
Pilgrim Transport	Your 1050/21. Proposal in para 2 that Italians should be asked to concede special status to Pilgrim Ships is unacceptable for political reasons and such ships could not carry commercial cargo. Ships should therefore be sailed in convoy. Saudi Arabian Government prepared to transport Pilgrims over land from Persian Gulf. No objection to using this route to reduce convoy commitment but transport will be limited. (Head of M., 1632/8 to C. in C., E.I.)
COVENTRY	My 1124/Z Is attached temporarily to Red Sea Force. (C. in C., E.I., 1228Z/8)

/Aden Air Raid.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

8.9.1940.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

Aden Air Raid

Italian air raid Aden 0530 G.M.T. 6/9 3 planes at 12,000 ft. dropped 12 bombs. Target presumably Admty Oil tanks, but no damage. Power Supply to Aden W/T was cut. Medium power restored after 3 hours, full power after 12 hours. (C. in C., E.I.,1652/8)

Evacuation Policy

Ref. 1848/6 from Admty. (now in abeyance) If revived, request policy regarding suppor of evacuation by armed force may be passed to me and S.N.O. Red Sea Force. I have assumed it is not intended, even if asked for or if suitable H.M. ships were available, which is not the case while committed to so many convoys. (C. in C., E.I., 0622/8 to Admty)

KINGSTON

Armed guard not located since 1200/7, but 817 Sqdn. F.A.A. searching (S.N.O. Red Sea, 1857Z/8)

Port Sudan Raid

2 S.79's leve; attack 13000 feet Port Sudan Quays. 8 100 Kilo H.E. 1 warehouse roof damaged. Water pipe and power cables cut. No casualties. Kenya. 6 and 7/9 S.A.A.F. and 237 (R) Squadron reconnaissances areas Moyale El Katulo, Huga Dera, El Wak Liboi and Mombasa. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1017/8)

China

French Troops Evacuation

B.L.O. Saigon 0353/9. In view of present situation in Iddo China I recommending granting this guarantee if C. in C., E.I., has no objection. (C. in C., China to Admty., 0345/8)

Your 0345/8. Originally H.M. Government Policy to give facilities for Evacuation of troops from Jibuti to fight for us is now in abeyance, because I understand withdrawal would have undesirable effect within French Somaliland from our point of view. This consideration applies equally to troops being moved to French Indo China and I therefore hope nothing will be done to encourage withdrawal which might lead to Italian use of French Somaliland for offensive operations against sea communication and movements. (C. in C., E.I. 1748Z/8 to C. in C., China)

/Raider....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

8.9.1940.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

China-Contd.

Raider Movements

Reference Natel Part 1 B 1935/5 estimated dead reckoning position of TROPIC SEA 14/6 close to position of suspicious ship reported in S.O. (I) Wellington's 0646/5/7. (Capt. O.S. Singapore, 0531Z/8)

America & West Indies

Dutch Submarine

Your 1846/6. S/M O.14 will be sailed for Halifax as soon as possible after arrival at Bermuda. Concur in use of S/M for A/S practice provided Admty. accepts later date of arrival U.K. (C. in C., A.W.I., 0922/8)

PRAHOVA

Admty. 1427/8 indicating that Roumanian ship PRAHOVA and others to be treated as enemy ships.
PRAHOVA left Santa Fe yesterday Saturday direct to Los Angeles for Bunkers, Calculate earliest possible arrival Roumanian vessels approximately 1300 G.M.T. 9/9. (N.A. Buenos Aires, 2015/8)

U.S.Bases

Verbal, base requirements of U.S. mission in West Indies. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1301/8) See Operations Volume.

French W. Indian Islands

Your 2346/7. Proposals are contained in Governor Bermuda's telegram No 186 of 7/9 to Colonial Officer. (C. in C., A.W.I. to Admty, 0954/9)

Australia

Dutch Transports

Your 1905/29/8 and 1250/6.P and O are arranging with Sydney and Bombay agents6 for relief for Javanese stewards on SLAMAT INDRPOERA, CHRISTIAN HUYGENS, and JOHAN DE WITT at Colombo. Any delay to U.S. 5 either in respect of sailing date or by diversian to Singapore would upset programme of arrival in Middle East. As provision of alternative shipping for U.S. 5 not practicable make every endeavour to ensure that Dutch ships proceed to Colombo with existing crews for whom repatriation will be arranged. (D. of S.T. 0615/8, to A.C.N.B.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

8.9.1940.
Sunday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

WINNETOU	Tanker, which sailed from Las Palmas 9/4 and not reported since, now known to have fuelled raider which sank HAXBY and captured TROPIC SEA on 9/5 and 21/5, and was still in company of raider on 30/6, but nearly empty (D.S. 370) Arrived Kobe (C.O.I.S. Singapore, 0346Z/9)
IDARWALD	Confirmed from Tampico that transference of phosphates to PHRYGIA took place in February, but no activity has taken place since (D.S. 370)
YALOVA	Arrived Galatz from Poti 6/9 with manganese ore (D.S. 370)
IRHAKA	Left Galatz for Novorossick with empty barrels, due there 8/9. (D.S. 370)
ODER	At Massawa, has discharged cargo of Soya beans (D.S. 370)
OLIVIA FRAUENFELS	Commenced discharging cargo ashore on 2/9. (D.S. 370)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

CONTE BIANCAMANO	Took in 800 tons oil fuel at Colon 4/9. (D.S. 370)
Collier	Durezzo report states Italian collier lost by mine or torpedo between Bari and Durazzo on 22/8 (D.S. 370)
BARBARA	Proposal made by Iranian Govt. to buy this ship. (D.S. 369)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

8.9.1940.
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

MARDINIAN
PASSIDON

Torpedoed 2330/8 (See 9/9)

Submarines Reported

0220 — 57.30 to 58° N., between 15° and 18° W position indefinite (D.S. 370)

Lorient — Request early bombing attack on U-Boats in Lorient (C. in C., W.A., 1951/8)

0940 — Submarine on Surface reported course 180°, in 58.53 N., 03.33 W., (B.3) (AC.O.S. 1013/8)

0936 — D.F., probable U-Boat, unreliable fix, 57.30 N., 13° W to 15° W., (D.D.I.C., 1033/8)

1212 — D.F., probable U-Boat, unreliable fix, 56° N., to 57° N., and 20° to 24° W., (D.D.I.C., 1316/8)

1438 — D.F., probable U-Boat unreliable fix, 57° 10' N., 13° W., (D.D.I.C., 1527/8)

1240 — Reported by A/C 56. 08' N., 10.15' W., at 1240. Despatch 2 ships to hunt. (C. in C., W.A. to LOWESTOFT, 1323/8) SKEENA and PERIWINKLE detailed (SKEENA 1555/8)

If not in contact, rejoin your convoy forthwith. (C. in C., W.A. to SKEENA and PERIWINKLE, 1917/8) Cancel my 1917 Attack submarine position 56° 07' N., 10° 32' W., (C. in C., W.A., 2021/8)

1727 — 55.50 N., 10.12' W., course 70°. ANTELOPE and AMAZON to hunt. (C. in C., W.A., 1923/8)

1725 — A/C report, 56.27 N., 09.20' W., at 1725 (C. in C., W.A., 2103/8) Not attacked as in a restricted area (A.C. H.Q., Plymouth, no T.O.O./9)

2220 — 58° N., 14.30 W., position approx (D.S. 370)

/U-Boat detection...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

8.9.1940.
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

U-Boat Detection

Your 1720/6. Request very early consideration may be given to fitting destroyer apparatus capable of receiving and obtaining bearings of these transmissions as this will be invaluable in enabling U-Boats to be detected. Most desirable that sucha receiver should be tried out at earliest possible moment in a destroyer in N.W. Approaches to confirm FIJI's report and obtain practical experience. (A.C.W.A., 1947/8, to Adty.)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

3 or 4 in N.W. Approached of which 1 is in about 57° 30' to 58° N. between 13° and 15° W., No news of the others. Also 1 still farther W.
2 were reported in about 53° 58' N., 4° 12' E,p.m./7 course 280° (D.D.I.C., 1154/8)

Submarines Attacked

1240 — 56.08 N., 10.15 W., periscope bombed by A/C L/233 no hits, (D.S. 370)

1910 — 56.08 N., 10.34 W., U/B seen on surface and bombed, no hits, by A/C V/233 (D.S. 370) 4. 250 lb bombs dropped from 200 ft. exploded across track of U/B 20 ft f from position in which it submerged. (A.C.H.Q., Plymouth 2155/8)

Mediterranean & East Indies

Ships Attacked

ATLAS Sunk

Tanker Greek, ATLAS 4008 tons torpedoed and sunk by Italian U-Boat at 1200Z/6, 14 miles North of Jebel Teir Captain and crew reached Kamaran 0800Z/8. Armed guard from KINGSTON not located since 1200/7 but 817 Squadron F.A.A. is searching (S.N.O. Red Sea 1857Z/8)

Ship was detached from B.N. 4. on 5/9 as could only go 6 knots Greek POLYKTOR and Egyptian STAR OF CAIRO detached for same reason. (C. in C., E.I. 0520Z/9)
Blenheim A/C searched for dinghy containing armed guard, nothing seen, but dinghy and occupants subsequently arrived safely Kamaran Island (Air H.Q. Aden., 1841/9)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.9.1940.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Sweep of French Coast

ATHERSTONE, FERNIE, BERKELEY, BEAGLE and BULLDOG last night carried out a sweep of the French Coast between Le Touquet and Cap Antifer. Nothing was sighted.

Bombardment of Boulogne

A bombardment of Calais and Boulogne, each by one ship of 2nd C.S. and 3 destroyers, to destroy barges, was carried out last night. No barges even found at Calais and no bombardment carried out. Owing to adverse weather only a short bombardment of Boulogne was carried out; there was no opposition.

M.T.B's off Ostend

M.T.B's last night patrolled off Dunkirk and carried out a sweep off the Belgian Coast, in the course of which M.T.B's 17 and 15 each torpedoed and sank supposed supply ships. Air attack on Ostend provided a diversion which was of great assistance. The only opposition offered was by a patrol vessel who's fire was inaccurate.

Sweep to Iceland

REPULSE, BERWICK, NORFOLK and destroyers were ordered to return to Scapa if no enemy information was received by 1600 today.

RODNEY

Orders have been given for the ship's company of RODNEY to be recalled from leave and the ship to sail as soon as practicable for Scapa, where the work on her boilers is to be completed.

Dover Shelled

Enemy coast batteries shelled Dover p.m. today. There ~~was no~~ Naval damage and ~~or~~ casualties.

Casualties.

DERVISH (A/P Vessel) was sunk by a mine off the Humber at 1300 to-day.
VISCOUNT and VANOC were in collision to-day and both were damaged above water. VANOC will be ready for sea to-morrow, but VISCOUNT will be out of action for a week.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.9.1940.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Operations

Aircraft last night successfully attacked harbours and docks at Ostend, Boulogne and Calais; shipping and oil tank installations at Emden. Intended action against barges at Ostend by 12 Whitleys was considerably reduced owing to unfavourable weather conditions.

Shipping near Bremen was attacked; and 41 Hampdens attacked shipping in an around Hamburg and Delfzijl Harbours. Considerable cloud, rain and action/enemy defence rendered the results difficult to assess.

Six Blenheims today unsuccessfully attacked an enemy destroyer or troop carrier 26 miles West of Dieppe, the entire deck of which was covered with troops.

Four Swordfish attacked a large group of enemy M.V's, auxiliaries, escort vessels and barges being towed off Ostend.
One hit was obtained on the stern of an auxiliary, as well as several near misses.

A Spitfire reported and machine gunned a huge concentration of ships and barges at Flushing. 200 barges were sighted off Ostend. Another Spitfire reported 60 to 70 ships of all sizes anchored S.E. of Flushing.

An aircraft unsuccessfully attacked a convoy of 10 M.V's escorted by 6 destroyers off the Texel at 0930/9)

Many photographic R.C's were undertaken

One of our aircraft at 2200 sighted in the Heligoland Bight a force of 28 merchant ships steering westward at and attacked an hour later and believed that one ship was hit.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.9.1940.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Operations

Considerable damage was done to rail and road Communications in the London area in a raid last night. The heaviest bombing was in the riverside districts, but minor indiscriminate bombing was widespread. Every Metropolitan Borough was bombed during the night. London Docks were again bombed. Considerable dislocation was caused on all rail exits to the east and south of London.
A number of important roads in London are blocked.

A Trawler is reported to have been attacked this morning 25 miles E. of Lowestoft, and convoy F.N. 77 A was unsuccessfully attacked off that port this evening

Mining:

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night is suspected off the East Coast and Humber, and off the East Coast of Scotland.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.9.1940.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Defence of Cyprus

C. in C., Mediterranean has made certain recommendations regarding the fixed defences of Cyprus.

Air Raid on Matruh

Slight damage was done in an air raid on Matruh today. Our fighters pursued the raiders to sea and forced a second large enemy formation approaching to jettison their bombs.

Air Raid on Derna & Tobruk

The harbour and other objectives at Derna and the harbour and landing ground at Tobruk, and Bomba seaplane base were successfully attacked by aircraft today.

East Indies

Air Raids on Massawa

Massawa was attacked by aircraft both yesterday and today. The damage caused is not known.

East Indies Contd.

Raider

The Tanker ATHELKING reports being shelled by a disguised merchant ship raider in the Indian Ocean early this morning.

America & West Indies

The first 8 U.S.A. destroyers for Great Britain were commissioned today.

North Atlantic

Six French cruisers left Toulon today and are due to pass the Straits of Gibraltar 11/9. Their destination is not known.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.9.1940.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Readiness — The first degree of readiness is to be maintained until further orders. (V.A. Dover, 1045/9 General)

Policy

GALATEA, AURORA — Your 0956/8 (re keeping them at Sheerness) Concur (A.C.N.S. (H) 2240/9)

Destroyers from Liverpool transferred to Portsmouth — Destroyers from Liverpool transferred to Plymouth (Capt. D.9. in HAVELOCK with HESPERUS, HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER, WOLVERINE, VOLUNTEER) are to proceed to Portsmouth during dark hours 9/9 (A.C.N.S., (H) 1646/9)

Movements

Nore Command — Anticipated night dispositions 9/10 Sept., (C. in C., Nore, 0800Z/9, 1039/9)

DUCHESS OF ATHOLL — Sailing postponed till 12/9. (D.O.D.(H) 1312/9)

MALLARD, GUILLEMOT — Orders (F.O.i/c Harwich 1016/9)

ANTELOPE, AMAZON — To act as additional escort to O.A. 210 until 0800/10. (C. in C., W.A., 1547/9)

WIDGEON, SHEARWATER, "ADAPT" — Orders. Code word "ADAPT" (C. in C., Nore, 1255/9)

SABRE, WITCH — Orders (C. in C., W.A. 1417/9)

Western Patrol — Movements (V.A.N.P. 0932/9, 0936/9) No escort available for A.M.C's (V.A.N.P. 1724/9)

/Destroyers from...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.9.1940.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements-Contd.

Destroyers from Liverpool for Portsmouth — Admty's 1646/9. Captain D. 9. in HAVELOCK, with HESPERUS, HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER, VOLVERINE and VOLUNTEER expect to pass F-buoy at 0630/10. VANOC will be sailed on completion of minor defects. VISCOUNT is out of action for about five days. (C. in C., W.A., 1837/9 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

Humber — Movements and patrols night 9/10 Sept. (N.O.I.C. Humber 1735/9)

WALKER WANDERER — Orders, (C. in C., W.A., 1407/9)

RODNEY — Ship's company to be recalled from leave and ship to sail for Scapa as soon as practicable. Work on boilers is to be completed at Scapa (1st S.L. 1502/9)

GERANIUM — Have detached H.M.S. GERANIUM to proceed Liverpool independently as she is not fast enough to escort H.M.S. CHITRAL (MACKAY 0644/9 to C. in C., W.A.)

Orkneys — Movements tonight. (A.C.O.S. 1601/9)

Operations

Patrol O. — Tonight. orders (C. in C., Nore, 1212/9)

Sweep to Iceland — If no enemy information is received by 1600/9 return to Scapa with your force passing North and East of Faroes (C. in C., H.F., 1028/9 to BERWICK)

Nore Operational Memo — N.O.i/c Amendment (C. in C., Nore, 1209/9)

Shelling of Dover — Dover and vicinity was shelled p.m. Details. No damage to H.M. ships or casualties to Naval personnel. (V.A. Dover 2030/9) Shelling is continuing. Details. Some shells are bursting in the air. (V.A.Dover, 2247/9) Shelling started 1809 and proceeded nearly continuously until 2304. Between 150 and 250 rounds fired at town, harbour and shipping. (V.A.Dover 0327/10)

/EREBUS.....

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

EREBUS — During a coming operation EREBUS will form part of a convoy until near her destination.
Request you will investigate and report on the possibility of camouflaging EREBUS while in the convoy, so that her peculiar features may be as little apparent as possible. (V.C.N.S., 1624/9 to EREBUS)

Bombardment of Boulogne — Thorough search of outer anchorage for one and a quarter hours revealed no ships or barges at Calais and no bombardment was carried out. Owing to bad visibility our ships were not sighted from shore. No patrols seen. AURORA reports only short bombardment of Boulogne possible owing to adverse weather conditions and no opposition met except flares to seaward of ships and one stick of bombs. (C.S. 2. 0942/9)

Sweep off French Coast — If weather is suitable intend to repeat sweep from Le Touquet to South westward tonight, but using three destroyers instead of five so as to conserve available forces for future operations. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1423/9)

Your 1423/9, not to C. in C., Nore.
A reinforcement of six destroyers will reach you early tomorrow Tuesday and a further 2 later. Hence it may be possible for you to send 5 destroyers tonight instead of 3 Sweep should be carried out along the coast from St. Valery to Le Touquet. (1st S.L. 1647/9)

M.T.B's off Ostend — Reports of M.T.B. operations night 8th/9th. Five E-Boats seen at 2320 in C.P.S.C. 0806 course 210° throught then to be patrolling. Dunkirk channel swept between two degrees 10 minutes and 2° 25' E., Ships seen. Three German Airmen in rubber boat picked up at 0550 in C.P.W.T., 2350 0914/9/9.
Ends. And.
M.T.B's 17,15,14 arrived at charted position Middelkerke bank buoy at 2321 and commenced sweep towards Zydcootepass Buoy arriving 0600.

/Course.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.9.1940.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

M.T.B's off Ostend, Contd.

Course was set for Stroombank Buoy arriving 0120 where course was altered towards Ostend. When within 1½ miles of breakwater it was decided to resume sweep towards Droogte Van Schoonewold owing to bad visibility and rain. At 0224 when at end of sweep. This track was reswept to S.W. and at 0234 about 20 merchant vessels were sighted at anchor about 1½ miles 010° from Ostend breakwater.
M.T.B's 17 and 15 carried out two torpedo and gun attacks each. Firing one torpedo in each attack. Each boat obtained one hit with one shot. Results of the two other shots is doubtful. Vessels sunk considered to be supply ships of about 1000 tons and 2000 tons respectively. Great assistance resulted from diversion of air attack on Ostend and from parachute flares. The only opposition offered was by a patrol vessel anchored to north of anchorage but fire was inaccurate. M.T.B. 15 fired a grenade at this vessel in passing. M.T.B. 14 became detached at 0120 due to bad visibility and did not get in an attack. M.T.B's 17 and 15 set course for home at 0250. (C. in C., Nore 1550/9)

Sweep of French Coast

Night of 7th/8th Sept. ATHERSTONE BEAGLE SALADIN BULLDOG proceeded at 2045 to search for vessels reported South of Nab. On receipt of further orders they proceeded to 170° Dungeness 15' and thence to carry out V.A. Dover's 0011/8th. It was not possible to get as far as Calais and a sweep was made between Boulogne and Cap Blanc Nez. Nothing sighted, and Gris Nez did not open fire.

Night of 8th/9th Sept. ATHERSTONE FERNIE BERKELEY BEAGLE BULLDOG arrived 50° 26' N 1° 23' E., at 2345 and swept to Southward 4 to 6 miles off coast until 0300 in position 5 miles North of Cap Antifer. Nothing sighted. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1553/9)

/Rest needed....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.9.1940.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

Rest Needed by Ships' Companies

No barge or ship targets were seen last night at Dunkirk, Calais or Boulogne. Officers and men at action stations in ships at sea got little sleep last night. Have consulted C. S. 2., D.21, and S.O.,M.T.B's. I intend to make no attack tonight unless a suitable target is definitely located before dark. All ships will be ready to attack tomorrow night with greater efficiency. (C. in C., Nore, 1446/9)

Attacks to be Carried out Tonight

Your 1446/9. With the large movements of barges that are taking place it is not possible to judge by evening air reconnaissance whether any movement will take place during the night.
As it is essential to seize every possible opportunity of striking at the concentration which is taking place, destroyers and M.T.B's must be sent tonight to Calais, Boulogne and Dunquerque to attack any vessels found outside these harbours. (1st S.L. 1648/9)

Sweep of French Coast

Repeat last night's operation, 3 ships to each. Western party also sweep coast between Boulogne and Gris Nez. Acknowledge. (C. in C., Nore, 1718/9 to D. 21)

Sweep of French Coast "BOARD"

Cancel my 1457/9, not to BERKELEY. ATHERSTONE take FERNIE BERKELEY BEAGLE and BULLDOG under his orders and leave Portsmouth at 1915/9 to carry out sweep of French coast from St. Valery north eastwards towards Le Touquet. Object to locate and destroy enemy small craft which may be of barge type. On completion of sweep ATHERSTONE and FERNIE proceed clear to Sheerness passing south Goodwin Light vessel at dawn. BERKELEY BEAGLE and BULLDOG return, to Portsmouth on completion of sweep passing Nab Tower 0600/10 Fighter cover until dark today Monday and for ATHELSTONE and FERNIE from daylight tomorrow Tuesday has been requested. Code word in both cases Board. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1835/9)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.9.1940.
Monday

HOME COMLANDS

Operations-Contd.

H.M.S. ATHERSTONE and five destroyers left Portsmouth 1915/9 to sweep from St. Valery to Le Touquet. (C. in C., Nore, 2240/9, 2326/9)

Sweep by 21st D.F. to Calais & Boulogne

21st D.F. will proceed to J Buoy arriving there about 0200/10. One Division will sweep towards Calais and the other towards Boulogne arriving these objectives at 0230/10. Aircraft will drop flares at both places. One Unit of M.T.B's will arrive off Ostend about 22.00/9 and sweep entrance of Schelde and back to Zuydcoote pass returning Harwich at daylight. (C. in C., Nore., 1948/9 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

Sweep by M.T.B's off Belgian Coast

Cancel my 1514. One unit of 70 ft. M.T.B's is to sweep past Ostend to-night close enough to sight ships anchored close inshore. Then sweep to Flushing entrance and back again if time permits. Be well clear of coast by daylight. 21st D.F. is operating to the West of2° East. Air attack may be carried out on Ostend during night (C. in C., Nore., 1820/9 to S.O., M.T.B's Felixtowe)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.9.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

E-Boats

Strong indications of E-Boat activity between E and S.E. of Start Point. (C. in C., Nore 1857/9)

Portland reports E-Boat activity 25 miles West of Portland. Investigate. (C. in C., W.A. 0159/9 to BROKE, WITHERINGTON.)

Submarines

Positions and movements 0600/1 in Area A and B. (V.A.S. 1701/9)

CYCLOPS & Submarines – F.O.I.C., Greenock's 1910/7. Basing of CYCLOPS and submarines at Campbeltown can be deferred as far as I am concerned. I will be in a better position to make final decision regarding this flotilla's base after winter weather has been experienced at Rothesay. Should Rothesay prove unsuitable it may be desirable to move this flotilla to Lamlash or Campbeltown whichever is defended. (V.A.S., 1024/9 to C. in C., W.A.)

British Air Operations

Calais – Aircraft report of attack. (Chatham A.C.H.Q., 0530/9)

Hatston – 3 sorties of 3 skuas each leaving at 1030 to locate and harass enemy shipping (Hatston 1018/9)

Barges Off Flushing to be Attacked – P.R.U. Report there is a concentration of about 200 barges tugs and small M.V's outside Flushing about ½ mile off shore. From Walcheron Isl. to Mainland.
2. Intention
To attack this concentration provided full use of cloud cover can be taken. (Chatham A.C.H.Q., 1042/9)

Iceland – Sunderland not available for R.C. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1446/9)

/Bomber Command.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.9.1940.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Operations-Contd.

Bomber Command Operations

B.C. Intelligence Summary No. 413 H.Q.B.C., 1930/9)

A.M.C's

of Western Patrol. Your 1724/9. Air escort arranged (for unescorted ships) (C. in C., W.A., 2149/9)

Patrol SAIE

was extended to within sight of Norwegian coast nothing sighted (C. in C., Rosyth 1158/9)

Enemy Air Activity

R.V.Yard, Deptford

Royal Victoria Yard struck by H.E. bomb about 0430/9. Another immediately outside Yard. Extensive damage 57 and 60 stores by blast elsewhere, Yar Wall breached. Some slight delay in functioning anticipated. Telephonic communication with outside interrupted. (Supt. R.V. Yard, Rec. 0835/9)

London Docks

Last nights air attacks. No further damage is reported from docks. One considerable fire still burning at Thameshaven in Royal Docks and King George V Docks all hydraulic power, electricity and water out of action. Green and Silley Weir Blackwall temporarily out of action through unexploded bomb. (F.O.I.C. London. 1330/9)

S.L. 44 A

Report of attack on convoy on night 6/7 Sept, by master of SS BRITANNIA. (C. in C., Rosyth 1629/9)

Beachy Head

Following from Beachy Head. Explosions seen and heard S.S.E. from Beachy Head 10 miles apparently a bomb from hostile machine which passed from N. to S. at time. (N.O.i/c Newhaven 2350/9)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

9.9.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Operations

Attack on London Docks

The following ships are reported to have been sunk or damaged during enemy air attacks on the London Docks on 7/9, 8/9 and 9/9. (D.O.R., 369).

Ship		Tons	Result
INANDA	(British)	5,985	Burnt out and submerged.
BARONESA	"	8,663	Submerged.
BEN NEVIS	"	5,264	Gun platform, steering gear and crew accommodation wrecked
UMGENI	"	8,180	2 incendiary bombs, hatches burnt.
HETTON	"	2,714	Leaking amidships. Starboard side deck buckled across break of poop. Master k.
KNITSLEY	"	2,272	Extensive damage superstructure, engines and stoke-hold.
GOTHLAND	"	1,286	Bomb through after deck.
UMTALI	"	8,162	Oil and petrol bomb. Small damage.
MINNIE DE LARINAGA	"	5,049	Burnt out but still afloat.
WILLIAM CASH	"	1,186	Submerged by bows.
OTAIO	"	10,298	One small H.E.
SHERWOOD	"	1,530	Damaged by fire.
TYNEMOUTH	"	3,168	H.E. bomb passed through ship. Vessel submerged.
RYAL	"	367	Damaged above water line by shrapnel.
PRINS FREDERKHENDRIK	(Dutch)	1,288	On fire, slight damage
PRESIDENT FRANCQUI	(Belgian)	4,919	Badly damaged by fire, stern damaged by bomb.
ABBEKRK	(Dutch)	7,906	Submerged with heavy list. Salvable.
MOENA	"	9,286	ABBEKERK is leaning on her, probably undamaged. No.6 hold flooded and cannot steam.
SCHIE	"	1,967	Burnt out and submerged.
ANTJE	"	157	do.
REIGER	"	155	do.
THEA	"	273	do.
ANNA	(Belgian)	695	Damaged by fire.
PRINS MAURITS	(Dtch)	1,287	Slightly damaged fire.
LAKE HALLWIL	(Estonian)	3,165	Damaged by shrapnel above W.L.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.9.1940.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

GALATEA — Mine exploded close under starboard bow, at 0525, position 310° East Tongue Buoy, 8 cables. Damage being investigated but appears less serious than last time. (C.S. 0651/9)

Operation S.N. 41 — Your 2222/8. Concur (C. in C., W.A., to R.A.M.L., 0950/9)

Operation B.S. 37 — Intend PLOVER and VAN DER ZAAN escorted by ICARUS and IMPULSIVE and accompanied by LEDA to pass Spurn Point at 1400/10 proceeding by searched channels taking departure from 20D buoy at 0100/11 thence by Gap B to initial position laying about 0700/11 returning to Humber by same route. Request air escort from Humber light ship at 1500/10 till dark and from 0500/11 in position 55° 07' N., 00° 08' E., until dark. (S.O., Minelayers, 1015/9)

My 1015. Add 5 hours to times in para 1 cancel para 2, and ~~withdraw~~ substitute request air escort from 20 D buoy at 0600/11 till dark. (S.O. Minelayers, 1155/9) Air escort requested (C. in C., Nore 2156/9, 2209/9)

S.N. 41 — My 1003/4 and your 1309/6 and 0940/9. Owing to four minelayers now being available for S.N. 41 lay will be within area bounded by lines drawn 5 miles either side of centre line joining 56° 21' N., 9° 05' W., and 56° 01' N., 8° 16.5' W., Lay will start at 2100/11 and finish 0045/12. Amendment to my 2004/6 follows. (R.A.M.L., 1212/9., to C. in C., W.A.)

Details of operation S.N. 41 (R.A.M.L. to Admty., 1224/9, cancelling his 2004/6) JACKAL, VERSATILE, VIMY and ELECTRA to escort (C. in C., H.F. 2144/9)

Mine — Drifting mine sighted 59.16 N., 2.18 W at 0720/9 by motor vessel CONIDA. (A.C.O.S., 1520/9)

/ Air.....

War Diary

9.9.1940.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining Contd.,

Air Protection — Requesting fighter protection, 7 fast minesweepers, 0930 to 1400/10, S.O., NIGER (C. in C., Nore, 1733/9)

Trawler Sunk — A.P., trawler sunk by mine about 1300/9 in position 156° Humber L.V., 2.6 miles Mast shewing, 11 survivors, 4 reported missing. (F.O. Humber, 1745/9)

Westray/Firth — Cancel my 1606/3. Westray Firth open (N.O.I.C., Kirkwall, 2212/9)

DERVISH — (A/P vessel) was sunk by mine off Humber 1300/9 (Cabinet War Room Recd. 373)

Enemy Intelligence

20 small craft — Steering 080° 2 miles distance, course unknown, my position 55.30 N., 5.31E., A/C 220 Sqdn, 0900/9)

Norway — My 1018/9 No shipping of importance sighted Bergen Haugesund or Fiords. 1 M.V. 2500 tons in Haugesund hit by one 250 lbs. and several 20 lbs bombs. Oiler 2500 tons at Dolvik damaged by near misses This sortie confirmed that two tanks destroyed, third tank and pipe line severely damaged, in previous raid military camp near 60.10 N., 5.26 E., hit by one 250 lbs and eight 20 lbs bomb and three huts destroyed. Considerable heavy H.A. from Bergen and flak near Dolvik, Haugesund. One Skua failed to return (Hatston, 1700/9)

Shipping Routes — Germans have issued following routes fo Scandinavian shipping. Trondhjem Stavanger via Inner Lead. Stavanger Christiansand Kattegat Coast route. Christiansand Oslo within 5 miles of coast. Christiansand Kattegat straight course Christiansand to Hirshale and under no circumstances to West of this line thence along coast to Frederikshaven. (F.O. (S) 1801/9, to S/Ms on patrol)

/Calias.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.9.1940.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence, Contd.

Calais, Boulogne

Following from A.L.O. Dover, 1208 between bearings 118°- 124° under French Coast 2 trawlers 35 barges moving towards Boulogne.
1220 Trawlers augmented by 3 and all 5 proceeding towards Calais. Barges are self propelled and still proceeding towards Boulogne
1236 Bearing 106° 6 trawlers approaching Calais.
1258 Bearing 120° about 15 vessels proceeding towards Boulogne.
1354 about 16 vessels proceeding slowly to Boulogne and 35 barges (approx) goingd inside them, last boat bearing 139°.
1450 above vessels entered Boulogne.
(A.C.H.Q., Chatham, 1848/9)

Dunkirk

Ship Operation NHR/235.
1900 3 Cr. 5 M.V. (2000 tons) in harbour Dunkerque Cruisers resembled JEANNE D'ARC but accurate description not possible.
35 M.V. approx (1500 tons) 20 MV (750 tons) Stationary extending 2 miles W. of harbour and about 12 very small craft stationary outside harbour.
About 4 isolated vessels along coast between Dunkerque and Cape Gris Nez., tonnage unknown. The above force is considered to be Force CL. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 2135/9)

Bremerhaven

PRU Sortie H/181 date 9/9/40 shows at Bremerhaven besides the liners BREMEN and EUROPA three other liners of which two arrived since 4/9/40 this:- 700 ft. (possibly KRAFTDURCHFREUDE) (?) 20 ft (probably HAMBURG SOUTH AMERICA) and 550ft (possibly BERLIN) Also arrived two tankers over 500 ft. only warship seen one destroyer. From same sortie appears that in Hamburg in spite of cloud a considerable exodus of shipping since 4/9/4). In Emden a very small reduction of small craft (P.I.U., 2300/9)

Flushing. Ostend

Operation FLUSH. A/C A C L M K/S 12 reports:- Approx position 51.27 N., 2.50 E., 1355 hrs. 3 M.V. 3 Auxiliaries 8 E.Vs. about 600 tons 3 miles ahead were 10 groups of barges of 3 or 4 in each group in tow of a tug.

/Force.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.9.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Flushing, Ostend- Contd.

Force appeared to be coming from Flushing and forming up off Ostend. Course S.W. speed 5 knots for strike on this target see CH/B12/9/9.

C/812 reports a group of 4-8 small vessels to landward of target M.Vs. Aux's E.Vs appeared to have wide red band round hull and a red dot on deck towards stern A/C encountered medium flak from 2 Auxd. from the bridge.
(A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 1855/9)

German Bases

PRU Sortie H/181 date 9.9.40 time 1230 hours shows liners BREMEN and EUROPA left Hamburg and arrived Bremerhaven at Colombus Quay. Twelve small ships visible at anchor in small portion of adjacent river visible. In Wilhelmshaven TIRPITZ present eight inch cruiser left and suspicious tankers arrived. Deflzijl approximately as full as previously. Shipping count in Hamburg and interpretation of BISMARCK impossible on account of cloud. (P.R.U. 1950/9)

Red Cross E-Boats

K Search by 235/OZQ 1700-1830 hrs. 1726 50° N., 2° W., 1 E.B. 180/20, 1 E.B. 260/20 1 mile apart 1732 49.56 N 1° 58' W., 2 E.B. 180/20 1 E.B. 360/20 All flying red cross flag, no torpedo tubes observed, appeared to be searching for men in sea1745 50.15 N., 2.40 W., (A.C.H.Q., Chatham 2055/9)

Miscellaneous

Weather

GALE WEATHER, S.W. gale veering W. or W. N.W. later, now expected N. of line Slyne Head, Tahlin, Islay, Longstone, including Orkney and Shetlands. Depression Iceland with trough to N.W. Scotland moving E.S.E., (Duty Met. Off. 2124/9)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.9.1940.
Monday

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

STAD VLAARDINGEN

STAD VLAARDINGEN beached in Largo Bay but while in tow of Norwegian Destroyer SLEIPNER before arrival of tug she struck ALGORAB and holed latter in engine room. ALGORAB has heavy list and making water fast. Crews of both ships safe and 60 Dutch crew from STAD VLAARDINGEN landed and handed over to immigration authorities. (N.O.I.C., Methil, 0353/9)

STRINDA

Requesting trawler escort for damaged Norwegian tanker STRINDA as escort to Cardiff. (N.C.S.O., Clyde, 1100/9)

VANOC
VISCOUNT

VANOC has been in collision with H.M.S. VISCOUNT both ships sustained damage above water. Temporary repairs in VANOC to be completed 10/9. Permanent repairs in VISCOUNT, estimated time to complete one week. (C. in C., W.A., 2236/9)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

9.9.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoys

C.W.11	2 Hunt class destroyers to proceed Sheerness to escort to Portsmouth. (D.O.D.(H) 1612/9). Sailing postponed until 11/9. (C. in C., Nore, 1541/9).
O.B.212	Cancel my 0717/8 (WITCH to escort) (C. in C., W.A., 1413/9).
O.B.210	To alter course to port at 2100/9 for 3 hours. (C. in C., W.A., 1320/9).
OA.211	Proceeding Route "S". (WESTON, 2007/9). Position (A.C.O.S., 1601/9).
BAS.3	Position at 2000 (for Iceland). (A.C.O.S. 1601/9).
OA.212	CAIRO in company, off Girdleness 00001/10. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1826/9).
OB. 213	Route. (C. in C., W.A., 1950/9).
SL.45	Meet CATHAY and. (C. in C., W.A., 1350/9).
HX.68A	CAIRO to remain with, returning for Methil with OA.212. (C. in C., H.F., 0138/9).
SC.3	To alter course at 1200/10. (U-boat report of 56° N. between 25° W. and 28° W.) (C. in C., W.A., 2010/9).
HX.69	To alter course at 2130/9. Route. (C. in C., W.A., 1330/9).
OBM.212	Trawler escort. (N.C.S.O., Milford Haven, 0915/9).
FN.77	2 corvettes and 3 A/S trawlers to R.V. with Part 2 FN.77 to afford extra protection against E-boats. Code word "Adapt". (C. in C., Nore, 1138/9).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

9.9.40.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

URUMEA — Spanish, sent in by KINGSTON TURQUOISE. (Contraband Control, Gibraltar, 1540/9).

Raider — My 1046/8. Further report establishes that raider had telescopic topmasts. Suggest that due to recent Press publicity her appearance may now be very materially changed. (F.O.C.N.A., 2058/9).

South Atlantic

ARGUS — To return to U.K. but should receive escort. Request consider inclusion in first available S.L.F. convoy. (D.O.D.(F) to C. in C., S.A., 1534/9). Adty. 2347/7. Propose to sail ARGUS independently about 12/9. (C. in C., S.A., 1735/9).

Convoy A.P.1. — Arrived with YORK. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1845Z/9).

Raider Report. See also East Indies. — Following weak signal intercepted. GLENBEG called JACOB NATAL at 0520 G.M.T. and at 0526 G.M.T. called any British warship transmitting following signal from Master of GLENBEG. Following received at 0424 G.M.T., signal weak, QQQQ 20 South ? 85° 40 East shelled? DEGANZ at 0352/9 (ends). Position uncertain, no name of vessel given, 0515/9. (British S.S. LUXMI, 0810/9).

Convoy AP3 — Intend sailing Convoy A.P.3 (list) for Freetown and GLAUCUS for Java via Capetown, escorted by KEPPEL, ACHATES and ACTIVE, at 1830/10. Route. (F.O.I.C., Liverpool, 1715/9). Request fighter protection from dawn 11/9, code word "Rival". (F.O.I.C., Liverpool, 1430/10).

Cancel my 1719/3. Escort for A.P.3 sailing pm/10, KEPPEL, ANTHONY, ACHATES, ACTIVE, from Bar Light Vessel. SABRE, WITCH, WALKER, WANDERER from Lough Foyle. Regret you will give R.V. for latter. (C. in C., W.A. to F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1401/9). My 1338/5. A.P.3 to sail 10/9 as arranged.

For A/S .....

War Diary

MOST SECRET

9.9.40.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

URUMEA — Spanish, sent in by KINGSTON TURQUOISE. (Contraband Control, Gibraltar, 1540/9).

Raider — My 1046/8. Further report establishes that raider had telescopic topmasts. Suggest that due to recent Press publicity her appearance may now be very materially changed. (F.O.C.N.A., 2058/9).

South Atlantic

ARGUS — To return to U.K. but should receive escort. Request consider inclusion in first available S.L.F. convoy. (D.O.D.(F) to C. in C., S.A., 1534/9). Adty. 2347/7. Propose to sail ARGUS independently about 12/9. (C. in C., S.A., 1735/9).

Convoy A.P.1. — Arrived with YORK. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1845Z/9).

Raider Report. See also East Indies. — Following weak signal intercepted. GLENBEG called JACOB NATAL at 0520 G.M.T. and at 0526 G.M.T. called any British warship transmitting following signal from Master of GLENBEG. Following received at 0424 G.M.T., signal weak, QQQQ 20 South ? 85° 40 East shelled? DEGANZ at 0352/9 (ends). Position uncertain, no name of vessel given, 0515/9. (British S.S. LUXMI, 0810/9).

Convoy AP3 — Intend sailing Convoy A.P.3 (list) for Freetown and GLAUCUS for Java via Capetown, escorted by KEPPEL, ACHATES and ACTIVE, at 1830/10. Route. (F.O.I.C., Liverpool, 1715/9). Request fighter protection from dawn 11/9, code word "Rival". (F.O.I.C., Liverpool, 1430/10).

Cancel my 1719/3. Escort for A.P.3 sailing pm/10, KEPPEL, ANTHONY, ACHATES, ACTIVE, from Bar Light Vessel. SABRE, WITCH, WALKER, WANDERER from Lough Foyle. Regret you will give R.V. for latter. (C. in C., W.A. to F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1401/9). My 1338/5. A.P.3 to sail 10/9 as arranged.

For A/S .....

MOST SECRET

9.9.40.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

Convoy A.P.3 (Contd.)

For A/S escort, a temporary reduction of destroyer escorts with regular trade convoys will have to be accepted. (D.O.D.(H) 1634/9). Route for convoy (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1640/9).

Intend sailing Convoy A.P.3, consisting BRITANNIC, DOMINION MONARCH, ATHLONE CASTLE, DURBAN CASTLE, CLAN MACARTHUR, CLAN CAMPBELL, BRISBANE STAR and IMPERIAL STAR for Freetown, and GLAUCUS for Java, escorted by KEPPEL, ACHATES and ACTIVE, at 1830/10. Route. SHEFFIELD, ULSTER PRINCE and ANTHONY from Clyde, SABRE, WITCH, WALKER and WANDERER from Lough Foyle R.V. at 0630/11. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1715/9).

Mediterranean

Turkish Ferry Boats

My 1502/28. First 2 ready to leave U.K. about 9/9 in convoy. Journey to Egypt via Cape not less than 2 months. (Hd. of M. to N.A., Angora, 1610/9).

Mines, Alexandria

Summary of mines destroyed off Alexandria 12/6, 12/8 and 3/9. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 2254/9).

Cyprus

Re fixed defences. (C. in C., Med., 1829/9).

Escort Ships, Minesweepers.

Request for more, Mediterranean very ill equipped and reinforcement urgently necessary Requirements. (C. in C., Med., 1917/9). (See Mediterranean Vol).

Air.

Fulmars

To release some Fulmars for E. Mediterranean, 807 Sqdn. to form initially with I.E. 3 Fulmars and raised to 12 later. (D.N.A.D. to R.A.N.A.S., 1906/9).

Your 2025/3/9. Despatch of Fulmars will be expedited by giving you priority over VICTORIOUS sqadrons. Plans for increased Gladiator and Skua shipments. (D.N.A.D. to C. in C., Med., 1908/9).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

9.9.40.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Air (Contd.)

Tel Aviv Raid

Air raid on Tel Aviv at about 1630/9, 5 planes type unknown dropped leaflets in Arabic and some bombs on town. One Cafe one house damaged, 4 Jews killed and some injured. One or two bombs dropped on an Arab village north Telaviv killing 6 Arabs. No Military objective anywhere near. (N.O.I.C. Haifa, 1944/9).

6 enemy aircraft attacked Tel Aviv 1611/9. 1 Australian soldier, 6 Arabs killed. 1 R.A.F. officer seriously wounded, 150 civilians wounded. Raiders also dropped anti British pamphlets. 1 fighter failed to intercept. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1054/10). My 1944/9. Appears air raid for more extensive than first reported here. (N.O.I.C., Haifa, 1309/10).

Tobruk Bombed

8 Blenheims 55 Squadron and 12 Blenheims 211 Squadron high level attack north shore Tobruk harbour west landing ground El Gubbi and El Aden landing grounds. Bombs fell in target area Tobruk shore causing several explosions. A.A. heavy and accurate. Blenheim 55 Squardon attacked Gazala and Tmimi landing grounds and bomba seaplane base. Bombs fell among aircraft and on slipway. All aircraft returned safely. (H.Q., R.A.F. M.E., 1057/10)

East Indies

LLANGIBBY CASTLE

Arrived Mombasa 0800Z/8, discharged troop stores and mails, sailed for Durban 1500Z/8 (D.S.T.D., Kilindini, 0514Z/9).

ATHELKING, Raider Attack. See also Raider Report South Atlantic.

Shelled by disguised merchant ship raider 0352Z/9, position 21.48 S., 67.40 E. (KANIMBLA, 0646Z/9, C. in C., E.I., 1016/9). Nothing further heard from her. (D.S. 371).

TALAMBA

Not to be included in BN.5½ unless recently docked and capable of 15 kts. (C. in C., E.I., 1528/9).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

9.9.40.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

NEPTUNE — Orders for patrol. (C. in C., E.I., 1210/9).

ARAWA — Orders for patrol (C. in C., E.I., 1210/9).

Minelaying Red Sea — Ref. X.763, 5/8. Swordfish aircraft sent here for minelaying operations fitted with standard tanks and unable reach port which S.N.O., Red Sea, wishes to mine. These are all in Massawa area, 310 miles from Port Sudan, 210 miles from Kameran. Range given by L.R. tanks might enable operation to be carried out from Port Sudan area. It should not bedone from Kameran as this is undefended island which we now use for quick refuelling Blenheim escorting convoy South Sea area. Island is frequently reconnoitred by Italian aircraft and operations involving use for several days in succession would certainly compromise Kameran future use for present essential escort work. Mines can only be laid at rate of 3 per night. Request whether L.R. tanks available and would enable minelaying from Port Sudan area and whether C. in C., M.E., would agree this. Till further orders impracticable, N.O. Red Sea of H.Q. Aden Command strongly recommend operations be carried out by carrier. (H.Q., Aden, 2109/9).

Air

Port Sudan Raids — Air Raid 1100Z/7, two S.79 aeroplanes ~~bombed~~ 8 high explosive bombs near cotton sheds Port Office and Naval Office, no serious damage or casualties, enemy got away. 0900Z/8, 4 similar aeroplanes, 24 bombs, some incendiary neighbouring aerodromes, no damage or casualties. Fighters engaged enemy but unable to overtake. (N.O.I.C. Port Sudan, 0726/9).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

9.9.40.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Air (Contd.)

Assab Raid — Daily Intelligence Summary Number 91 and Operational Summary for 24 hours ending 1500 G.M.T. 9/9. Two Blenheims Indian Wing attacked jetties and warehouses Assab 0600, bombs fell west of main jetty causing explosion followed by a fire. Heavy and fairly accurate A.A. One Blenheim 203 Sqdn. 0700 to 1130 carried out search vicinity Kotama Island for dinghy containing armed guard of one officer and 5 ratings ex Greek tanker ATLAS which was torpedoed and sunk by Italian U-Boat 6/9. Nothing seen but dinghy and occupants subsequently arrived safely Kamara Island. All times G.M.T. No casualties. (Air H.Q. Aden, 1841/9).

America and West Indies

A/S Patrols, Trinidad — N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1656/22/8. Ships being taken to obtain 2 steel hulled ships for A/S patrols, Trinidad. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1610/9).

Suspicious Ship — My 1632/2. ROTURUA in position 34°22' N., 49°17' W. at time sighted. Understand GAZA arrived her York 31/8, AMARANTE Gloucester, N.J., 28/8. (S.O.I., Kingston, 1552/8).

Jamaica — Your 1233/9. Inform Governor that I am preparing to send cruiser which could arrive in 48 hours, but do not wish to do so unless very urgent. DESPATCH arriving (date). (C. in C., A.W.I., 1808/9).

CARADOC — Orders for patrol, to fuel at Tortola and return Trinidad. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1251/9).

DESPATCH — Your 1809/9. Governor grateful for offer but does not anticipate need for any assistance in near future. Situation fully under control. (Capt. I.C. Jamaica to C. in C., A.W.I., 1745/10).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

9.9.40.
Monday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

WINNETOU	S.O.I., Shanghai reports arrived Kobe. (C.O.I.S., Singapore, 03462/9).
MELILLA	Brit. V. Consul, Gifon, reports sailed night of 6-7/9. (Consul, Vigo, 1859/9).
BREMEN EUROPA	Left Hamburg and arrived Bremerhaven. (PRU., 1950/9).
BORKUM	Sunk by a German submarine on 23/11/39 when in charge of a prize crew from CALIFORNIA, has been salved and will be ready to leave Kirkwall 12/9. (D.S.371).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

DENTICE	Refloated 3/9, is to be towed into Puerto Cabello for internment. (S.O.I., Kingston, 1738/9).
GERARCHIA	At San Nicholas, Cape Verde, discharging her cargo gradually by Portuguese sailing ship RIBIERA BRAUA to St. Vincent. (D.S.371).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

9.9.40.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

AURIS sunk — British tanker, 8030 tons. S.S.S.S. 36.00 N., 21.00 W., now under gunfire 1140/9. (AURIS, 1152/9)(Lisbon, 1930/9). Ship sunk, see 10/9. Under Govt. charter, sailing independently from Trinidad to Gibraltar. (D.S. 371).

MARDINIAN
POSSIDON — Submarine attack on convoy 2330/8, 56.42 N., 09.33 W., course 095° (? 8 miles); 0345/9, 56.27 N., 08.58 W., course ? 263°. MARDINIAN (British, 2434 tons) and POSSIDON (Greek 3840 tons) missing. Contact obtained 3000 yards ahead of convoy 45 minutes after first attack. Trawler APOLLO not in company, assumed hunting. Am proceeding to search for APOLLO. (LOWESTOFT, 1040/9, 1040/9). APOLLO reports MARDINIAN survivors on board, searched for other survivors without success. Explosion so slight some of MARDINIAN's crew did not wake and adjacent ships heard nothing. Am proceeding accordance your 1300/5. (LOWESTOFT, 1330/9). Your 1040/9 contains first intimation of attack which took place at 2330/8. Imperative that attacks on convoys are reported immediately they occur so that steps can be taken to organise surface and air hunting forces, despatch salvage craft, and divert shipping. (C. in C., W.A., to LOWESTOFT, 1613/9). MARDINIAN sunk (see 10/9).

THORNLEA
(torpedoed 2/9) — C.G. Officer Kyle, reports one empty lifeboat name THORNLEA, Newcastle, washed ashore at Craignish Pt., at 0700/9. (F.O.I.C Greenock, 1510/9).

VILLE DE MONS
(torpedoed 2/9) — 14 survivors landed in ship's lifeboat at North Polnia, Isle of Lewis, one dead body also in boat. 77(? 17) survivors from VILLE DE MONS, 3 officers and 14 men, landed Stornoway by Grimsby trawler QUERCIA at 0845/9. Picked up at 1608/8 off Cape Wrath. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 1510/9).

Submarines Reported

0815 — D.F., 56° N., 13.20 W., position indefinite. (A.1) (D.S. 370) (D.D.I.C., 0858/9).

1155 — 2 U-boats reported in Lyme Bay 250° and 215° Abbotsbury Coastguard 4 miles. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 1250/9)(See Submarines Attacked).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

9.9.40.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported (Contd.)

1030 — Report from L.D.V. in West Yell sighted submarine at 1030 breaking surface close to Ness of Sound in Yell and then in westerly direction (B.3). Comment - whales frequent this locality. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 1307/9).

1140 — A.F. message 36° N., 21° W. at 1040 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C., 1636/9, 1640/9).

1125 — D.F. Italian U/B in approx. vicinity of Ferrol. (D.D.I.C., 1317/9).

Lorient — Your 1951/8. U-boats in Lorient were bombed a few days ago and question of further attacks is being considered in conjunction with that of other naval targets. (D.O.D.H., to C. in C., W.A., 2059/9).

1326-2229 — Probably between 56° and 57° and W. of 20° W., indefinite (D.S. 371).

Estimated U/B dispositions — 4 in N.W. Approaches of which:
1 was in about 56°27' N. 9°20' W. at 1725/8.
1 in about 56°08' N., 10°34' W. at 1910/8.
1 is possibly in about 56° N. 13°30' W.
1 was in about 58° N. 14°30' W. at 2220/8.
Also 1 is still farther W and North Sea Patrols are still likely. (D.D.I.C. 1318/9)

Submarines Attacked

1155 — 2 U-boats reported in Lyme Bay 250° and 215° Abbotsbury Coastguard 4 miles at 1155. Military opened fire and aircraft dropped bombs on periscopes. U-boats proceeding westward, two M.A/S.B's sent to hunt. (F.O.I.C., Portland, 1250/9).

1620 — Have attacked firm contact under oil patch in 55°28'05" N., 07°14' W. (SCIMITAR, 1620/9). Contact regained. Wreckage and oil as from non-sub. wreck. (SCIMITAR, 1634/9). Your 1620. There is a known wreck in this position. (A.C.W.A., 1729/9). Contact remains firm and stationary. Thick fuel oil rising and wooden wreckage. Now clearly non-sub.-wreck. Rejoining convoy. (SCIMITAR, 1741/9).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

10.9.40.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Portsmouth Destroyers reinforced

6 destroyers of 9th D.F. have been transferred from the Western Approaches Command at Liverpool to Portsmouth, 2 more will follow when defects are completed.

Sweep of French Coast

ATHERSTONE, FERNIE, BERKELEY, BEAGLE, BULLDOG last night repeated their sweep of the previous night off the French coast. The night was clear; no enemy forces were sighted.

Sweep by M.T.Bs off Belgian Coast

One unit of M.T.Bs last night carried out a sweep past Ostend to sight ships anchored close inshore. No ships were seen.

21st. D.F. Sweep off Calais and Boulogne

Last night, the 21st D.F. carried out sweeps off Calais and Boulogne. The division for Calais was engaged by heavy shore batteries continuously until the ships had passed South Goodwin; there were several near misses. No shipping was seen in the Roads or inner anchorage. The sweep off Boulogne was also unproductive, though it is believed one small auxiliary vessel was sunk and an E-boat fired a torpedo and was damaged.

U-boat sunk

STURGEON reports that she attacked and apparently sank a large northbound U-boat today in the eastern part of the North Sea.

Shipping

While the present heavy air attacks on the Port of London continue and the enemy's intentions remain uncertain the larger ocean going ships will as far as possible not be sent to the East Coast. Ships of over 6500 tons gross will be given a West Coast destination and ocean going ships of lower tonnage than 6500 will not be sent south of the Humber. Coaster traffic is to continue, and FS convoys may be restarted subject to the above limitations. Ocean going shipping is to be moved out of the Port of London as quickly as possible.

War Diary

MOST SECRET

10.9.40.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Operations

Last night, in good visibility barges in Calais were located without difficulty and attacked with success. Boulogne harbour and shipping and dock installations at Ostend were successfully attacked. Searchlight and gun emplacements at Cap Gris Nez were also attacked, but results were not observed. Successful attacks were also made on the docks at Wilhelmshaven, shipbuilding yards at Bremen, dockyards and shipbuilding yards at Hamburg, docks south of Wismar, Wesermunde, Cuxhaven and Kiel docks

Enemy Air Operations

Last night, another intense attack was made on the London area and lasted several hours. Attacks appear to have been directed against railway centres and industrial areas, but there was much wholly indiscriminate bombing. Large fires were caused at warehouses at the London Docks; at Woolwich where a cordite shed was blown up and the Royal Arsenal was damaged ; and the R.N. College was damaged.

Convoy WN.14 was attacked this morning, about 35 miles west of Hull. S.S.ELI (Norwegian) was sunk. S.S. CLAN LAMONT was bombed but no damage is reported.

Convoys MT.65 and FN.77A were attacked by aircraft without damage off the N.E.coast at 2230/10.

Mining

3 aircraft successfully laid mines off Verdon in the Gironde Estuary last night.

Enemy aircraft probably carried out minelaying off the North East Coast last night.

Mediterrancan

Blenheim aircraft today attqcked Bomba seaplane base and Derna. Fires were started at Derna jetty. Bardia, El Gubbi and the landing ground at North Tobruk were also

attacked.....

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean (Contd.)

attacked, fires being started at Bardia.

The air raid on Tel Aviv yesterday is reported to have been more serious than was at first thought.

East Indies

Raider

Another ship has been attacked in the Indian Ocean. S.S. BENARTY was bombed at 0932 today by an aircraft from a disguised merchant ship raider. ARAWA, NEPTUNE and CAPETOWN are proceeding to search.

South Atlantic

DELHI is leaving Point Noire in order to avoid the possibility of being present should hostilities break out between the Free French and Vichy adherents.

1

War Diary

MOST SECRET

10.9.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Richborough Channel — Blocked 1800/9 by sinking drifters ALFRED COLEBROOK and HARVEST MOON (V.A.Dover, 0957/10).

Western Approaches — C. in C. is asking for more Bofors guns. Asking for remarks of Air Min., F.C. and Balloon Command. (C. of L.D., 2231/10).

Policy

A/S Trawlers to be based at Scapa for OA Convoys — Proposed to base a division of 16 A/S trawlers on Scapa for escort duties with OA convoys. A.C.O.S. to administer them and detail 2 for each convoy (C. in C., W.A., 1943/10).

Pit props — Suggesting they be salved from Ships sunk around U.K.. (C. in C., Nore, 2151/10).

Reference to Destroyer Classes — In order to be able to distinguish between the different classes of destroyers it has been approved that they shall, when necessary be referred to as follows:-

TRIBAL Class	TRIBALS
"A" and later classes	FLEETS
HUNT class	HUNTS
"V" or "W" class converted to A/A	WAIRS
"V" or "W" class unconverted.	VEES
"S" class	ESSES
Ex U.S.A. destroyers	TOWNS

(1st Lord 2346/10).

Movements

WOLVERINE VOLUNTEER — (From Liverpool to Plymouth and thence to Portsmouth - see 9/9). Asking for fighter protection 0630/10 - 1030/10. (C. in C., W.A. 0629/10).

TIERCEL NAUTILAS — To sail in FS.76 sailing Humber 1530/10. (C. in C., Nore, 0952/10).

PEONY — When ready to join HX.69A. Position. If not met proceed to Rosyth (C. in C., W.A., 1127/10).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

10.9.40.
TUESDAY.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements (Contd.)

REVENGE	ANTELOPE, AMAZON to escort.
DUCHESS OF ATHOLL	(Naval ratings for U.S. destroyers). OTTAWA, SKEENA to escort. (C. in C., W.A., 1209/10).
PENTLAND FIRTH	Orders to escort MAJA (apparently in OA.211 with speed reduced). (C. in C., W.A., 1313/10).
RODNEY	4 destroyers to be detailed to be at Rosyth by 1800/11 to screen RODNEY to Scapa. (C. in C., H.F., 1358/10 R.A.D., H.F.)
CECILIA WOLFE	Movements. Amendment to 0932/9. (F.O.C.N.P. 1226/10).
Northern Patrol Trawlers	On patrol. Names. (A.C.O.S., 1514/10).
Berthing of Portsmouth Destroyers	Owing to the number of destroyers now stationed at Portsmouth, in order to minimise possible damage in the event of air bombing, the 9th destroyer flotilla will be berthed at Southampton. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1547/10).
CALIFORNIA	Orders to leave patrol (F.O.C.N.P. 1822/10).
Rosyth	Positions 2000/10 (C. in C., Rosyth, 1830/10).
CURACOA	To sail for Scapa 0600/12. (C. in C., Nore 2056/10).
KENYA	Escort (for trials) cannot be provided until 13/9. (C. in C., H.F. 2224/10).
DUNCAN MAORI	To proceed to Tyne to escort KYLE FISHER 11/9 to Rosyth with gun mountings for Clyde (C. in C., Rosyth, 2241/10).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

10.9.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Sweep by M.T.Bs off Belgian Coast

Following received begins: From V.4. Your 1820/9 unit passed Ostend at 2300 thence along coast and through Wielingen Channel to Thornton Ridge at 0430, no ships seen. (C. in C., Nore, 1035/10 to Adty.)

Sweep by 21st D.F. to Calais and Boulogne

Following received from D.2 begins:
Visibility during last night 4 to 6 miles
(A) Calais. No shipping present in Roads or inner anchorage. E-boat sighted 4 miles off harbour which retired at high speed after possibly firing a torpedo. Engaged by heavy shore batteries continuously until ship had passed South Goodwin. No illumination was used and there were several near misses.
(B) Boulogne. Sweep unproductive except for one small auxiliary craft off Boulogne and one E-boat met on return journey four mile off Boulogne. Former believed sunk. Latter damaged. Believe E-boat fired a torpedo. 0750/10/9 ends. (C. in C., Nore, 1054/10).

Sweep of French Coast

My 1835/9. Report of Patrol carried out by ATHERSTONE, FERNIE, BERKELEY, BEAGLE, BULLDOG, night 9/10th Sept. Ships sailed under orders of ATHERSTONE from Portsmouth at 1915/9 and proceeded at 20 knots to position 49°57'30" N. 00°46'30" E. turning at 2400 to sweep along French coast.
At 0215/10 in position 50°25'30" N. 01°15'12" E., ATHERSTONE and FERNIE proceeded to Sheerness. Remainder to Portsmouth, arriving Nab Tower at 0555.
No enemy forces were sighted.
Weather was calm clear and fine. Visibility 3000 to 4000 yards. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1537/10).

A destroyer sweep along French coast is to be carried out tonight tuesday 10th Sept. commencing at Le Havre and extending if possible as far as Boulogne. Destroyers should be in one or more forces.
(V.C.N.S. 1651/10 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

MOST SECRET

10.9.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations (Contd.)

Operation DH — C. in C., H.F. 0924/10. See Operations Volume.

Sweep to Iceland — BERWICK, NORFOLK, REPULSE and 4 destroyers expected time of arrival 2030/10. (BERWICK, 1655/10).

Attack on Shipping at Ostend by Nore destroyers — 3 destroyers are to be sent to attack any shipping anchored off Ostend tonight (V.C.N.S. 1701/10). Asking what route is suitable. (C. in C., Nore, 2010/10). Reply (A.C.N.S.(H) 2215/10). Sail so as to arrive off Ostend at 0315/11. Route. Attack any shipping in Ostend Roads and lookout for E-boats. If navigational difficulties involve risk of grounding you must abandon attack at your discretion. Flares will be dropped over the coast. Return by same route. Air protection will be asked for from daylight. (C. in C., Nore, 2026/10 to D.16, VETERAN, WILD SWAN).

Sweep by Portsmouth Destroyers — Cancel my 1747/10. Take BERKELEY BEAGLE and BULLDOG under you orders and proceed with four "H" Class destroyers to intercept group of twelve M/Vs escorted by thirty E-boats reported in position 315° Dieppe 15 miles at 1605, course 235° speed 10 knots.

Five enemy destroyers were reported in position 50°5' N. 0°55' W. course 224° 20 knots at 1630.

If you fail to intercept sweep to the northeastwards towards Le Touquet to destroy enemy small craft which may be of the barge type.

Return so as to pass Nab Tower at 0600/11. Acknowledge. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1833/10 to Capt. D.9). (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 2000/10).

Submarines

URSULA, SEAWOLF, SWORDFISH, STURGEON, SNAPPER. — URSULA, SEAWOLF, SWORDFISH, STURGEON, SNAPPER are to leave patrol after sunset 10/9 and return to their respective bases proceeding submerged by day to route 058°40'N. 003°20' E. and gap A. Object of S/m on patrol in North Sea remains anti-invasion. (V.A.(S), 0959/10).

MOST SECRET

10.9.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines (Contd.)

CLYDE	Proceed to patrol position (Capt. (S)9, 0949/10).
TIGRIS	To leave patrol 12/9. Route to Falmouth (Bombing restrictions. (V.A.S. 1232/10).
2nd S/m.F.	Capt. S.2 will re assume operational control 2000/10 (V.A.(S) 1416/10).
Positions	& Movements 0700/11 (V.A.S. 1702/10).
Adty. 1833/7/7.	F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1715/10).
CACHALOT	Asking earliest date she could sail on important operation. (D.O.D.(H) 1727/10 to V.A.S.)
O.23	My 0824/10 (orders to try to locate aircraft down in sea). Resume patrol. (V.A.(S) 1914/10).

British Air Operations

28 M.Vs attacked in Heligoland Bight.	Aircraft reports 28 M.Vs 200 - 6000 tons 53°30' N. 5°40' E. - 2200 hrs. co. 300 speed 8 knots. U/206 attacked this force in position 53°30' N. 5°35' E. at 2300 hrs. Released 2/250 lb. GP and 1/250 lb. A/S bombs at group of four vessels (one 6000 tons and three smaller ships). One GP bomb probably hit side of 6000 ton vessel. Force almost stationery when V/206 left. No A.A. fire experienced. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 1225/10, 0310/11).
Vessel hit in Sogne Fiord	Recco. of Sogne Fjord. No signs of shipping in Fjord exception one MV. about 4000 tons sighted at 1430 at* course 270° 8 knots. bombed and machine gunned scoring direct hits on stern with 4 25 lbs. incendiary bombs and 4 20 lbs. fragmentation bombs. MV was seen to be drifting towards shore as if disabled. (A.C.H.Q. Donibristle, 1715/10).

* 61°5' N. 6°50'E.

War Diary

MOST SECRET

10.9.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Operations

2 E-boats sunk — A/c F/59 on Dieppe reports: At 1605 50°10' N., 0°48' E. 12 M.Vs escorted by approx. 30 E-boats and at least 3 Fighter aircraft. CO.235 10 knots. 3 E-boats followed by 1 MV and followed by 3 E-boats were at rear of convoy and were attacked by F/59. Bombs were released it is believed that 2 E-boats were sunk. Intense A.A. fire experienced aircraft F/59 also engaged by enemy fighter but flew into cloud. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 1939/10, 1945/10).

Shipping not to be attacked — X.581 10/9. During night 10/11 Sept. Bomber Command aircraft are not to report by W/T any surface vessels between 1° W. and 3° E. south of lat. 51°45' N. No attacks to be made on shipping outside harbours after 0100 11/9. (Air Min. 1950/10).

R.C. of Norway — Aircraft took off at dawn to R.C. (1) Stadlandet to Andalsnes. (2) Sogne Fiord (C. in C., Rosyth, 0740/10).

KILMAN — Asking for fighter protection for her. (cable ship)(C. in C., Portsmouth 1448/10).

Bomber Command — Summary of Operations No. 415 (Summarised in situation Report). (H.Q.B.C.T.H.I. 1740/10). No. 416, operations 1200/10 to 2359/10. (H.Q.B.C. 0215/11).

Barges in Calais — To be attacked night 10/11 Sept. (H.Q.C.C. 1603/10). See Enemy intelligence).

C.C. Programme — For 11/9. (H.Q.C.C. 1815/10).

Enemy Air Operations

Newhaven — Bomb dropped in Southern Rly. goods yard. No casualties. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 1634/10).

Attack on WN.14 CLAN. LAMONT — Bombed 56°30' N. 7°15' W. (Lyness W/T 0626/10).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

10.9.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Operations (Contd.)

ELY sunk

My 0725. S.S. ELY in convoy WN.14 has been sunk (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 0810/10).

Yarmouth

Air raid on Trawler Base. No damage . (F.O.I.C., Yarmouth, 1257/10).

Mining

GALATEA Immingham

My 100/1 and my 0651/9. It is difficult to account for the firing of these mines since as far as is known GALATEA's DG installation is effective and in each case explosion occurred at not more than 50 yards from the centre line at about 30 station in depths of water of 13 and 7.5 fathoms respectively. A recurrence of these near misses will seriously impair the fighting efficiency of the ship. (C.S.2 2219/9).

Operations BS.37 "GRAIN"

Cancel my 2156/9. In view of S.O. Minelayers 1155/9 fighter protection will not be required today. (C. in C., Nore, 1249/10 to H.Q.F.C.) Operation B.S.37 postponed 24 hours (S.O. M/L Immingham, 1540/10). Asking for fighter protection 0600/11 (C. in C., Rosyth, 1546/10).

Belfast

One small red mine detonated by LL 320° 15 cables from Grey Point. (F.O.I.C., Belfast, 1600/10).

Operation SN.42

Cancel my 2109/6. Propose to sail for SN.42 at 0700/15 and lay within 5 miles on either side of centre line joining positions 56°02' N. 8°19' W. and 55° 42' N., 7°31' W. starting at 2045/15 and ending at 0030/16. (R.A.M.L. 2152/10).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

10.9.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Suspicious Vessel — Detach two ships to investigate suspicious vessels reported seven miles 180° from Beer Head at 0001 10th September. (C. in C., W.A., 0021/10 to Capt. (D)9).

Flushing — Indistinct photographs of P.R.U. Sortie 1830/9 show 200 barges in Flushing and in part confirm pilots visual recco report of 60 vessels off Flushing. Latter vessels widely dispersed and many under way manoeuvring (P.I.U. 0340/10).

M.V. — Aircraft reports that at 0240 hours in 51°25' N., 2°49' E. sighted M.V.8 - 10,000 tons steering a course 260° speed 12 knots exceptionally broad in the beam. Buoys in the north of the Schelde were lit West Schelde light vessel also lit also one flashing light near Thornton Ridge. (Chatham, 0610/10).

TIRPITZ — My 1629/6. German Main Units. Wilhelmshaven 9/9 TIRPITZ still in Bauhafen but 8" cruiser had left the Port.

BREMEN, EUROPA — Bremerhaven, 9/9 S.S. BREMEN and EUROPA alongside Quay. These ships were last located at Hamburg, 4/9. (D.D.I.C., 1228/10).

28 M.Vs off Frisian Is. — Twenty eight Merchant Vessels position 53°30' N., 5°12' E. Course 300 speed 8 knots. (A.C.U/206, 2230/10).

Ostend — P.R.U. Sortie 10 /9 (P.I.U., 1800/10).

Seine — Pefs. report (Chatham, A.C.H.Q. 2311/10).

Bomber Command — 2137/9, 2 large apparently Naval Ships stationary in 49°26' N., 0°52' W. facing West approx. 10 miles off coast. 2135/9 in 51°30 N. 2°25' E. destroyer moving fast course 120° true. Port Bessin 2145/9 concentration of 32 barges. 8 miles North of Ostend 2125/9 a few small groups of about 6 barges. 2245/9 3 to 4 miles N. of Juist 8 unidentified vessels bearing west in 2 lines, 2350 in 54°30' N., 6°40' E. 5 unidentified vessels heading West. (H.Q.B.C. T.H.I. 1740/10).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

10.9.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence (Contd.)

Calais — Photographic R.C. am/10 show increase of 60 barges in Calais harbour, making total now over 140. (H.Q.C.C. 1603/10).

Kristiansund &c. — P.R.U. Sortie. (P.I.U. 2312/10).

German Ports — (One) Lively transport activity reported between Bremen and Brunsbuttel 5/9, 6/9. Shipping proceeding south and westward.
(Two) 11 or 12 transports all sizes between 1000 and 8000 tons in Bremen 5/9 in a state of readiness. All marked with number forward, carrying Paravanes and Degaussing cables. Many wooden rafts with paddles transports on deck also cork or rubber floats and boxes or cages for horses.
(Three) Similar number of transports including three hospital ships were met between Bremen and Kiel canal on 5/9, 6/9, also one U-boat and two destroyers with 4 large motor boats on deck.
At Vulkaan yard. Two completed U-Boats in stream and six on slips.
Graded D.2. (D.D.I.C., 2031/10).

Casualties & Defects

MARVIA — Due Freetown 4/9, not arrived.

IDOMENEUS — Due Freetown, 5/9 not arrived. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1803/10).

OOSTPLEIN — Sailed Methil 26/7 for Buenos Aires. Not arrived, is considered overdue by agents (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1134/10).

SABINE — Tug, has returned to Greenock due to defects (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 1807/10).

BERAKIT — Reported overdue 5/9, Cancel. Now due Capetown, 17/9. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1234/10).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

10.9.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping

Convoys:

SL.45	2 trawlers to meet. (C. in C., W.A., to N.O.I.C. Belfast 0100/10).
SL.47	Sailing telegram. (N.C.S.O., Freetown, 1849/10).
9 Ships	Propose sailing convoy 11 ships 2000/10, for Falmouth. Propose SARDONYX and STURDY remain Dartmouth tonight and escort eastbound convoy due 0600/11. (N.C.S.O., Dartmouth, 0916/10). Concur. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1438/10). Sailed 9 ships unescorted. (N.C.S.O., Dartmouth, 1958/10).
FN.78	H.50 will join near South Shipwash tomorrow. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1815/10).
OA.212	Position. (A.C.O.S., 2025/10). Route G. (ROCHESTER, 1952/10).
OG.43	One or 2 transports for Gibraltar to join. (D.O.D.(H), 1545 /10).
OB.211	Sailed 0450/10, escort ERICA, MALLOW, VANQUISHER. (N.C.S.O., Liverpool, 0829/10).
HX.72	My 1207/10. PACIFIC GROVE carrying aeroplanes. (N.O.I.C., Halifax, 1208/10). Sailing telegram, (S.C.N.O., Halifax, N.S., 1207/10).
SC.1	On time at R.V. Ships torpedoed and sunk, BLAIRMORE, detached for rescue duty; EVA, straggler; ELLE at 0330 when well astern of convoy. (D.T.D., 1515/10).
HX.67	On time at R.V. with 37 ships. (D.T.D., 1516/10).
SHX.73	Advance sailing telegram. (N.C.S.O., Sydney, 1705/10)
SC.4	Sailing telegram. (N.C.S.O., Sydney, C.B., 1305/10).
OB.213	Route. (N.C.S.O., Liverpool, 1331/10).
BHX.73	Advance. (N.C.S.O., Bermuda, 1201/8).
Leith Tugs	Crew trouble, cannot be relied on. Propose tugs CROFT and HERWIT be requisitioned and commissioned with T.124 crews. (N.O.I.C., Leith, 1145/10).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

10.9.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Port of London	Policy for shipping while present heavy air attacks continue. (D.T.D., 2032/10).
Channel	Convoy of 11 sails Dartmouth 2000 for Falmouth of 4 sails Falmouth2000 for Dartmouth. BRITISH PROGRESS, tanker, sails Falmouth 2000 for Milford Haven. (C. in C., W.A., 1715/10).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

10.9.1940.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Canary Islands — Vice Consul, San Sebastian, reports Spanish ERIBOLL DE TENERIFFE sailing from Passages 4/9 for Canary Islands with consignment of German guns. (A 2) (N.A. Madrid, 1419/10)

Troops in O.G. 43 — One or two transports with troops for Gibraltar to join convoy O.G. 43 (date) Extra ocean escort not available but C. in C., W.A., requested to allow destroyer escort to remain as long as possible and F.O.C.N.A. to reinforce convoy escort on approach to Gib. (D.O.D. (H) 1545/10)

Air Patrols — Daily Summary Operations, carried out 5 A.S. patrols 3 of which are in co-operation with destroyer force in vicinity Alboran Island. Area covered Spartel to 190 miles east of Gibraltar K. 9682 arrived from Malta 0520 10/9. (200 Group, 1700/10)

South Atlantic

French Africa — Situation report, No 9. (D.N.I., 1319/10 No 10. D.N.I., 1936/10)

Overdue Ships — My 1134/5. Consul Dutch steamer BERAKIT, now due Capetown, 17/9. (S.O.I) Capetown, 1234/10)

ADMIRAL GRAF SPEE — Escape of 15 out of 16 officers interned on island of Martin Garcia, River Plate. (D.S., 372)

Convoy A.P. 3. — Sailed (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1925/10) Request fighter protection (1430/10) sailed D. 12 in KEPPEL with ACTIVE and ACHATES to R.V. with A.P. 3. (F.O.I.C., Greenock 0854/10)

Convoy A.P. 1. — Departure 10/9 Capetown A.P.1. Simonstown YORK to R.V. 180° Cape Point 10 miles at 1400. Time of arrival Aden, (N.B.I.C. Simonstown, 1113Z/10) Sailing telegram (N.O.I.C., Simonstown 1115Z/10)

/OOSTPLEIN.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

10.9.1940.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

COSTPLEIN — Dutch, sailed from Methil 26/7 for Buenos Aires. Not arrived and is considered overdue by agents. (S.O.I., Freetown, 1134/10)

ARGUS
SHEFFIELD
MOOLTAN — My 1307/8, cancel my 1735/9. Unlikely that S.L.F. Convoy will be available for some time. Intend to sail ARGUS (date) with SHEFFIELD unless unforseen opportunity for fast escort occurs before. Possible alternative is for ARGUS to sail with MOOLTAN p.m./11 and join convoy S.L. 47 about 13/9 when MOOLTAN relieves CARNARVON CASTLE as ocean escort. ARGUS to remain with convoy S.L. 47 until other escort can be provided for destination. (C. in C., S.A., 1205/10)

Raider Report — Following has been recd. QQQQ 18.40 S., 70.54 E., BENARTY bombed by plane from ship. CLAN MACFADYEN 0932/10 (ends) Passed in by GLENBEG 1425/10 G.M.T. (N.O.I.C., Simonstown, 1648/10) See also East Indies.

MARVIA
IDOMENEUS — Due Freetown 4/9 and 5/9 have not arrived Request if latter has proceeded direct. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1803/10)

Water. Transports — Admty. 1805/25, 1957/27, 1800/5 and 1640/2 Anticipated water can be supplied by local resources in 48 hours. (C. in C., S.A., 1907/10)

Mediterranean

ILLUSTRIOUS Mine report — My 1021/6. Examination of wire in paravane cutter of ILLUSTRIOUS establishes that it is aerial wire from Swordfish aircraft. No evidence that ILLUSTRIOUS encountered a minefield. (C. in C., Med. 0955/10)

Operations — Admty. 1911/2. Following fron Chiefs of Staff No 7. to Cs. in C., M.E., Re Telegram C.O. S. 3. it would be desirable to have the views of the Naval Cs. in C., The use of carrier borne aircraft might afford opportunities for combined action. (1st. S.L. 1136/10)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

10.9.40.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean (Contd.)

French Warships Have received formal request from Admiral Godfroy to take his squadron to Beirut on grounds that experience has shown no danger that Germans or Italians will seize French warships and because of wish for ships companies to be in French territory. I have replied that request will be forwarded but that I see little hope of agreement as there has been nothing proving Germans will not seize French ships if former elect to enter unoccupied France and that the hostile attitude of the Syrian Government also makes it unlikely that H.M. Govt. would allow ships to go there. (C. in C., Med., 1307/10).

French Shipping Adty. 2022/11. In view of operation MENACE and other considerations, is it intended that French shipping between North Africa ports and France should be interfered with, observing this may lead to the French adopting escorted convoy and possibly to French air reconnaissance over Western Mediterranean. (S.O., Force H., 1630/10).

French Fleet Following from Spanish Master who left Casablanca 6/9. French Battleship JEAN BART as before. One French cruiser sailed westward 3/9 presumably French cruiser PRIMAUGUET. All French merchant vessels and ex transports have painted their funnels with the colours of Chargeurs Reunis. 18 submarines and many destroyers. (S.O.I., Gib., 1652/10).

French Troops, Beirut Following have been promulgated. French ship DESSDERADE (? DESIRADE) leaves Beirut 1400/10 bound for Marseilles with demobilized troops. If encountered she is to be allowed to proceed subject to verification of cargo which should consist only 100 tons lentils and chickpeas. (C. in C., Med., 1841/10 to Submarines on Patrol).

French Force from Toulon French Adty. to me (begins). Please advise naval authorities Gibraltar departure from Toulon 9/9, 3 cruisers, type GEORGE LEYGUES, and 3 French cruisers LE FANTASQUE class, which will pass Straits am/11/9. National indications painted (ends). Destination not known. (N.A., Madrid, 1809/10).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

10.9.40.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean - Air

German Bomb — German 500 kg. bomb with Rheinmetal fuse marked S.D. 500 A.A., 1940 dropped on Malta during a raid on 6/9. (Governor, 1930/10).

New Aircraft — Adty. 1908/9. Suggest Grummans and Brewsters be sent in lieu of Skuas in view of higher speed. (C. in C., Med., 2131/10).

East Indies

Jibuti Evacuation — Adty. 1848/6. Following from Cs. of S. No.8: In view of possibility of position disintegrating of itself, and of the views expressed by O.A.G. Aden in telegram No.445 dated 7/9, we have decided to leave decision as to granting of facilities for evacuation from Jibuti of French and Senegalese troops to yourself and A.O.C. in C. M.E., in consultation with X O.A.G. Aden. (1st S.L., 1135/10 to C. in C., E.I.).

SHROPSHIRE, W.S.2 — Adty. 0242/27 and my 1218/23. SHROPSHIRE will now continue with slow group W.S.2A to about 22° N. in order to provide better A/A defence (C. in C., E.I., 1348Z/10).

BENARTY, Raider Attack — British BENARTY, 5800 tons, from Rangoon to Durban, bombed by aircraft from disguised merchant ship raider at 0932/10 in 18.40 S., 70.54 E. ARAWA will reach vicinity about 1600Z/11th. NEPTUNE proceeding Mauritius for fuel and will leave for eastward pm/11. CAPETOWN will reach position 08° S., 76° E. at 1600Z/12 (C. in C., E.I., 1940Z/10).

Convoy BN.5 — Sailing telegram. (N.C.S.O., Bombay, 0347Z/10

MOST SECRET

10.9.40.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies (Contd.)

NEPTUNE — Ref. 1826Z/4, C. in C., E.I. Result of NEPTUNE's reconnaissance on 8th and 9/9. Tullear one small coaster and numerous fishing craft. Saint Augustine and Fort Dauphin were empty. Fort Cruizer was also examined and found empty. Latter Harbour gives better shelter than is indicated on chart. Air photographs are being forwarded if satisfactory. There were no signs of unusual activity at any of these anchorages. (NEPTUNE, 1855Z/10).

China

CAPPADARAN, Sailing for Saigon — French Govt. in the U.K. states assurance has been given that CAPPADARAN will be allowed to sail for Saigon without hindrance. Vessel due to sail from Pointe Noire with cargo of war materials and industrial products. Agent asks for confirmation of guarantee which he presumes will apply to entire voyage via Cape. Request report. (C. in C., China, 0201Z/10, to B.L.O., Saigon).

Your 0201/10. I had no previous knowledge of this assurance, but French state they reported to Vichy desirability of receiving this cargo and suppose Vichy brought matter up in London. They ask whether assurance can be taken as given. (L.O., Saigon, 0815Z/10).

America and West Indies

BROOKWOOD — British, 510 tons, sailed from London 10/8 overdue at Sydney, N.S., since 2/9. (D.S.372).

U.S. Bases — Colonial Officer telegrams No.190 from Governor, Bermuda, and No. 451, from Governor, Windward Islands, circulated by M. Branch, re proposals of U.S. Mission.

War Diary

MOST SECRET

10.9.40.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies (Contd.)

Jamaica. Strike. Labour leader Buitamant placed in detention following inflammatory speeches. Has resulted in sympathetic strike on water front. Situation which should be cleared in 48 hours not at present considered serious by Government. Shipping held up pending settlement. FRESNO STAR delayed for coal bunkering. (S.O.I., Kingston, 1233/9. recd. 0105/12).

Australia & New Zealand.

Shipping H.M. transports JOHN DE WITT and NIEUW ZEALAND with cargo only leave Sydney for Bombay (date). Request charts. (A.C.N.B., 0201Z/10 to F.O. Malaya).

Dutch Ships. U.S.5 Your 0355/9. Instructions to Dutch Captains re exemptions for life-saving appliances, provided space in lifeboats and life rafts for all persons on board. U.S.5 will sail accordingly to programme. (D. of S.T., 0731/10).

War Diary

SECRET.

10.9.40.
Tuesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

WINNETOU — Reference Capt.O.S. Singapore 0346/9, request date of arrival of WINNETOU at Kobe and details of her activities while in port. (D.N.I. to N.A., Tokyo, 1835/10).

MARITZA. — Expected to leave Split for Trieste 13/9 with 5,000 tons bauxite. (S.O.I., Alexandria, 1202/10).

NORBURG — Arrived from Poti with manganese ore for Germany. (Galatz, 1128/10).

CORDELIA — Due to arrive Batoum 13/9. (Galatz, 1128/10).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

Kismayu. — My 200/205, Aerial photograph shows following ships' definite identification at Kismayu, Italian LEONARDO DA VINCI, MANON, DUCA DEGLI ABRUZZI, ADRIA, SAVONIA, MARGHERA.

Delete PENSILVANIA whose precise whereabouts is unknown. Only 3 of 4 remaining ships given are at Kismayu.

(S.O.I., Colombo's 1144Z/10).

War Diary.

SECRET.
10.9.40.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

AURIS (sunk 9/9) — From Portuguese warship DAO to all stations. Asking name of the ship that will rescue crew of AURIS, sunk yesterday in position 36°N, 21°W. (Valentia Radio, 0948/10).

MARDINIAN (sunk 9/9). — 31 survivors landed Belfast today include Master and all deck and engineer Officers. 6 missing and presumed lost. Vessel struck by one torpedo on port side and sunk in 50 minutes, approx. position 56°37 N, 9° W. time 0350/9. (F.O.I.C., Belfast, 1115/10).

S/ms. Reported.

2038 — D.F. unknown enemy unit probable U/B 59° 30 N, 1° 20 W. unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 2105/10).

1931 — Possible U/B outward bound in 57° 20N, 04° 15 E. at 1931 (V.A.S. 2054/10).

0540 — Following received from Coast Guard Kyle.

Large submarine cruising slowly on the surface bearing S.S.W. from Hallistra at 0540 steering towards Dunvegan Point. Trawler Dunvegan Loch showing lights. It appears submarine submerged on sighting trawler. T.O.O. 0921. Unable to establish telephone communication from Hallistra to C. Guard Kyle since 0540. N.O. i/c Kyle informed....0947/10.

My 0921 reported from A.S.4 Station Hallistra at 2120/9 unknown steamer anchored in Loch was WATERNISH SKYE and was kept under observation until 0555/10 when he got under way. Steamer flashed a bright light in direction of S/m 5 minutes before S/m submerged. Steamer then proceeded in a Northerly direction. 1055/10.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1625/10).

Estimated U/B dispositions. — GERMAN: 4 in N.W. Approaches on which i was in 56° 42' N. 9° 33' W. at 2330/8; another is probably to the Northward of Rockall; no news of the other two.

War Diary.

SECRET.

10.9.40.
Tuesday.

ITALIAN: 1 off Ferrol at 1125/9 may be moving S.W. 1 in 36° N. 21° W. at 1150/9.

(D.D.I.C. 1229/10).

S/Ms. Attacked.

0845	By A/c 56° 46 N. 5° 20 E. with bombs level, no hits. S/m sighted on surface and submerged on course 360, speed 6 knots. (A/c 220 Sqdn. 0910/10).
U/b (?) Sunk	In 57° 14 N. 06° 04 E. attacked and apparently sank one large Northbound U-boat on 10/9. (STURGEON 2222/11).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

11.9.40.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Sweep by Portsmouth destroyers

Last night, Capt. D.9 with BERKELEY, BEAGLE and BULLDOG and 4 "H" class destroyers proceeded to try to intercept a group of 12 merchant vessels reported N.W. of Dieppe at 1605/10, and 5 enemy destroyers reported N.E. of Dieppe at 1630. No enemy were sighted.

Attack on shipping at Ostend

Better fortune attended the 3 Nore destroyers MALCOLM (D.16), VETERAN and WILD SWAN who were ordered to attack shipping in Ostend Roads with the assistance of flares dropped by aircraft, after air attack had taken place. 3 barges, 1 trawler and 1 steamer were seen; all were hit several times and probably sunk. The destroyers suffered no damage. There was no concentration of barges present.

M.T.Bs.

Operations by M.T.Bs off the Belgian coast were cancelled on account of the weather.

E-boats

E-boats reported off the North Foreland at 2325 today.

Large transport sunk

STURGEON reports that on 2/9 she sank a 10,000 ton transport in the entrance to the Kattegat.

Shelling of Dover

Dover was shelled this afternoon, considerable damage being caused to civil property and the water supply being cut off.

RODNEY

Is to remain at Rosyth for the present. She has been undocked.

Preparations for invasion

There is new evidence of collection of shipping in Bremen, which could be used for invasion. Also that small merchant vessels are now moving westward along the Netherlands and French coast from Terschelling to Le Havre. Judging from reports of sweeps carried out by H.M. ships during the past 3 nights, movements of all types of shipping are very restricted during the dark hours, though during the day the enemy are moving shipping up and down the coast at will.

War Diary

MOST SECRET

11.9.40.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Precautions against Invasion.

CUMBERLAND (Force H), SHEFFIELD (escorting Convoy AP.3) and EMERALD (escorting HX.70) have been ordered to return to the Clyde at best speed. DUNEDIN and DESPATCH are also being withdrawn from America and West Indies station temporarily. The sailing of REVENGE with S.S. DUCHESS OF ATHOLL has also been cancelled.

Enemy Intelligence

A total of 980 barges is reported today in ports from Delfzyl to Boulogne.
The most important concentration of warships is at Cherbourg.

British Air Operations

Aircraft last night attacked barges and shipping in Boulogne harbour; results were not clearly observed. Barge concentrations were also attacked at Flushing, Ostend and Calais harbours; fires and explosions were seen at Ostend and Calais, but cloud precluded detailed observation of results. After the air attack on Ostend, 3 Nore Command destroyers bombarded by the light of flares dropped by the aircraft. The gun emplacements at Cape Gris Nez were also attacked by aircraft last night. Bremen and Wilhelmshaven Dockyards were attacked with success, though results could not be observed.

A Hudson attacked a force of 28 merchant vessels off Ameland last night and probably hit one ship.

At 1446 5 Beauforts attacked a force of 8 merchant vessels and 4 smaller vessels accompanied by 6 E-boats between Dunkirk and Nieuport and is believed to have sunk one merchant vessel. A convoy was attacked off Calais, but no hits were seen.
A Blenheim on routine patrol bombed 5 enemy destroyers 10 miles S.W. of Havre at 0643, resulting in one near miss.

War Diary

MOST SECRET

11.9.40.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Operations (Contd.)

Many photographs were taken of ports between Bremen and Cherbourg. The general impression is that large shipping units in considerable numbers are moving west from Flushing to Boulogne and beyond.

A total of 101 aircraft carried out 53 anti-invasion patrols, A/S patrols, reconnaissances and sorties. Air escort was provided for 25 convoys.

Enemy Air Operations

Major damage was caused last night in the London area. At St. Katherine's Dock a raging fire is out of control, and at London Dock 6 or 7 warehouses are on fire. This morning, with minor exceptions all quay facilities of the port remain intact. 18 merchant ships have been sunk or seriously damaged by fire, and about 12 have minor damage.

Eastleigh aerodrome was attacked this afternoon by dive bombers; there was no damage to the Naval Air Station or Naval personnel, but the Cunliffe Owen Factory sustained several hits and casualties.

Warehouses and sheds were set on fire and heavy damage done at Surrey Commercial Docks as the result of an attack at 1623 hours. At 2234 hours 3 H.E. bombs caused serious damage to the London Docks.

Deptford Victualling Yard was bombed at 1615 and is temporarily out of action. The oil tanks at Sheerness were damaged in a raid this afternoon and there were two raids on Plymouth late this evening causing damage to civilian property. There were two raids on Dover.

The enemy again lost heavily, at least 80 a/c being destroyed plus 34 probable and 44 damaged. A.A. also shot down 9 plus 9 damaged. Our losses were 28 aircraft and 17 pilots. Most of the enemy losses occurred in an attack on London during the afternoon.

War Diary

MOST SECRET

11.9.40.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Operations (Contd.)

Convoy CW.11 was attacked this evening in the Thames Approaches. The escorting ship ATHERSTONE was hit and taken in tow by TURQUOISE, but no other vessels were damaged.

S.S. ALEXIA in convoy WN.14 was bombed late evening and hit in the engine room. BLACKFLY took off the crew and tugs were sent to her assistance.

Trawler BEATHWOOD was attacked and sunk off Montrose at 2230. There are only 2 survivors.

Mining

Hampdens last night successfully laid mines in the estuary of the Gironde. Beauforts detailed to lay mines in the mouth of the Elbe were unable to locate the area owing to bad weather but dropped mines at Norderney and Langeoog. Another aircraft jettisoned mines off Norderney.

Enemy minelaying — Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night is suspected in the Mersey, South of the Isle of Man, Harwich, Portsmouth area and Thames Estuary.

French Force

French Cruisers leave Toulon — Early this morning HOTSPUR sighted the lights of the six French cruisers which left Toulon 9/9 for Gibraltar. She has been directed to take no action. F.O. North Atlantic is keeping in touch with the force by air. RENOWN and all available destroyers were ordered at 1239 to raise steam for full speed RENOWN and 3 destroyers proceeded to sea later today, 3 further destroyers being recalled from hunting a U-boat to join them, to endeavour to obtain contact with the French Force which passed Gibraltar westward at 0837 today and at noon was proceeding down the coast of Morocco at 20 knots. The French force was to be informed that there is no objection to their going to Casablanca, but they cannot be permitted to go to Dakar which is under German influence. At 1605 aircraft reported the force entering Casablanca, and a patrol is being established to watch in case the force should sail south-wards from Casablanca.

War Diary

MOST SECRET

11.9.40.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

Our aircraft today twice bombed the port at Assab, but results were not observed.

America & West Indies

Two of the U.S.A. destroyers taken over at Halifax were in collision when entering harbour last night and will be out of action for a week and a month respectively. Various of the destroyers have machinery defects requiring immediate attention.

War Diary.

MOST SECRET

11.9.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

A/S trawlers to be based at Scapa for OA convoys.

Your 1943/10. I did not appreciate a division of trawlers would consist of as many as 16 ships and wish to point out:

1. There are no rest facilities at Scapa or Kirkwall and at neither place can trawlers berth alongside.
2. Repair facilities for extra trawlers at Scapa are at present nil. At Kirkwall they are slightly better.
3. Quick coaling facilities are inadequate at both places.

It is for consideration whether the trawlers should not be administered from the port at which they rest and boiler clean and arrive Orkneys ready for sea. Port suggested is Ardrossan or possibly Oban with operating base at Kirkwall. (A.C.O.S., 1212/11 to C. in C., W.A.).

Drafting

At Portsmouth (1st S.L. 1834/11).

Movements

ARROW
AMBUSCADE

Available to escort CALIFORNIA. (C. in C. W.A., 1151/11).

Northern Patrol

Trawler line 11/9 (A.C.O.S. 1606/11).

EMERALD

Leave HX.70 forthwith and proceed at best possible speed to Clyde (1st S.L. 1622/11). Estimated time of arrival 0100/13. (EMERALD 1901/11).

Portsmouth

Night movements 11/12 Sept. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1647/11).

MATABELE
PUNJABI
ASHANTIE
TARTAR

Keep steam at 2½ hrs. notice by day and ½ hrs. notice during dark hours. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1703/11).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

11.9.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements (Contd.)

KEPPEL ANTHONY	Estimated position. Available R.V. FORFAR, DERBYSHIRE. (C. in C., W.A., 1743/11).
AGAMEMNON	Asking earliest date she can be ready to leave London. (Controller 1750/11).
ANTELOPE AMAZON	To R.V. with OTTAWA, SKEENA to convoy L.F.G.one at 0700/13. (C. in C., W.A., 1831/11).
M.T.Bs	Available night 11/12-9. (C. in C., Nore, 2014/11).
BERKELEY	Proceeding convoy CW.11 after daylight 12/9. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 2033/11).
FORFAR DERBYSHIRE	Orders for route. KEPPEL and ANTHONY join as soon after 1900/12 as possible for inward escort (F.O.C.N.P., 2234/11).
KENYA	Cancel my 2224/10. Not now practicable to forecast when escort can be made available.
WANDERER WITCH WALKER SABRE	Sailed to R.V. with AP.3 inaccordance with 1640/9. (N.O.I.C., Belfast 0442/11).
Humber and Sheerness Forces	Anticipated night dispositions 11/12-9. (C. in C., Nore, 0800/11).
RODNEY	Is to remain at Rosyth for the present (V.C.N.S. 1201/11). To keep steam at 1 hrs. notice during dark hrs. and 2½ hrs. notice by day. (C. in C., H.F., 1514/11).
ARROW AMBUSCADE	Will escort ULSTER MONARCH and CHITRAL. (C. in C., W.A., 1149/11).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

11.9.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements (Contd.)

REVENGE, DUCHESS OF ATHOLL, (Ratings for U.S. destroyers) — Re movements. (V.C.N.S. 1240/11).

KYLE FISHER — Your 2241/10. KYLE FISHER will not be ready to sail until 12/9. (F.O.I.C., Tyne, 1117/11).

PENTLAND FIRTH — Ordered to return to Belfast to make good defects.

ST. KEENAN — To join OA.211. (C. in C., W.A., 1259/11).

DUNCAN MAORI — To be retained at Tyne until KYLE FISHER is ready to sail, 1200/12. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1501/11).

CURACOA — Has done no working up and defects are still being made good. Crew are 80% new. (C. in C., Nore, 1606/11).

Operations

Attack on Shipping at Ostend by Nore destroyers — 3 barges 1 trawler and 1 steamer seen. All hit several times and probably sunk. No hit received. Expected time of arrival Harwich 0700. (Capt. D.16 0601/11). Full report of the operation. There was no concentration of barges present. (C. in C., Nore, 1230/11).

Sweep by Portsmouth Destroyers — My 1833/10. Re BERKELEY BEAGLE and BULLDOG to intercept group of M.Vs and E-Boats. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1035/11).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

11.9.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations (Contd.)

Sweep of French Coast by Portsmouth Destroyers "BOARD".

WOLVERINE take SALADIN VANOC and VOLUNTEER under his orders and leave Portsmouth today Wednesday passing Gate at 1930 to carry out sweep of French coast from St. Valery En Caux northeastwards towards Le Touquet to locate and destroy enemy craft. On completion of sweep return to Portsmouth passing Nab Tower 0600/12. Fighter cover until dark today Wed. has been requested. Code word BOARD.
(C. in C., Portsmouth, 1623/11, 1852/11).

Sweep off Dutch Coast

Destroyers should operate tonight from Schouwen bank northward along the coast as far as possible consistent with being west of 3° E. at daylight 12/9. Craft should not leave their patrol until as late as possible. M.T.Bs are particularly required to capture some prisoners. Request you will signal proposals.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1700/11 to C. in C., Nore).

(1) 3 destroyers under D.21 are to sail as soon as ready, to sweep east of Schouwen Bank towards mouth of River Maas.
(2) Object. Destruction of any ships met, and capture of prisoners. Latter most important.
(3) Return by Gap E. leaving area of operations as late as possible consistent with being west of 3° E. by daylight.
(C. in C., Nore, 1840/11 to C.21, Cdre. Sheerness).

Sweeps by M.T.Bs

Weather permitting two units of M.T.Bs. are to leave Harwich at 2230/11 and carry out sweeps close off enemy coast as follows:-
1. (A) 70 ft. M.T.Bs between Calais and Dunkirk.
   (B) 60 ft. M.T.Bs between Nieuport and Flushing.
2. Object. Destruction of any ships met and capture of prisoners. Latter most important.
3. 21st D.F. will be operating as in C. in C. Nore's 1840/11).
4. M.T.Bs are to be well clear of coast by daylight.
(C. in C., Nore, 1944/11).

Cancelled

Cancel my 1944/11. (C. in C., Nore, 2155/11).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

11.9.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations (Contd.)

CURACOA — Asking what degree of effeciency she has attained. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1355/11 to C. in C. Nore).

Centrations of Shipping on German, Dutch, Belgium and French Coasts. — Proposals by C. in C., Nore, for attack. (C. in C., Nore, 1010/11).

EREBUS — Re camouflaging (EREBUS 1045/11)(Reply to Adty. 1624/9).

Shelling of Dover, 9/9. M.T.Bs. hit. — Naval and civil damage and casualties. (V.A.Dover, 2305/11).
About 20 shells from "Framzelle" Battery fell in the harbour and town between 1545/11 a and 1601/11 some falling in Wellington and Train Ferry Docks. M.T.B 29 slightly damaged. M.T.B.71 out of action after being on fire. Some casualties. (V.A. Dover, 1846/11).
M.T.Bs 29 and 71 were damaged by shell fire in Ferry Dock today. Intend sailing M.T.B. 29 at 0001/12 for Harwich speed on passage 10 knots. M.T.B.71 will require some temporary repairs on completion of which it is intended to sail her to Portsmouth. (V.A. Dover, 2209/11).

Submarines

PORPOISE — No traffic observed between 045° 10' N., and 043°50' N. am proceeding to an alternative position. (PORPOISE, 1302/11).

Movements tonight F.O.C.O.S. 1601/11).

Positions — & Movements 0700/12. (V.A.S. 1626/11, 1728/11).

Adty.1833/7/7 — F.O.I.C., Greenock, 1815/11, C. in C., Portsmouth, 1845/11.

7th S/M.F. — Administration. V.A.S. 1029/11. Concur. (C. in C., H.F., 1905/11).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

11.9.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

E-boats.

E-boat activity off North Foreland. (C. in C., Nore, 2325/11).

British Air Operations

Bomber Command — Summary of operations.

M.V. Attacked — 0145 in 51°58' N. 4°2' E. Consider near miss. (Chatham A.C.H.Q., 0520/11).

Attack on Havre — By aircraft A/59. One bomb burst 20 yards from destroyer, but otherwise effect unobserved. (Chatham, A.C.H.Q., 0925/11).

Coastal Command — Operations for 12/9 (H.Q.C.C. 1630/11).

Bomber Command — Operations night 10/11 Sept. (H.Q.B.C., T.H.I. 1747/11). Operations 1200/11 - 2359/11. (H.Q.B.C., T.H.I., 2325/11).

Patrol by Sunderlands — Sunderland aircraft is carrying out A/S Patrol of Area 59°30' N., 03°20' W., 60°15' N. 02°20' W., 59°50' N. 00°30'W., 59°00' N. 01°30' W. from dusk until moonset and will then proceed to Invergordon. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1716/11)

Air Search — 12/9. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1826/11).

Attack on barges — 3 barges approx. 100 tons attacked in 50° 55' N., 1°35' E. No hits seen. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 2140/11).

Attack on Shipping — Aircraft unable to find convoy reported off Calais. Went up coast to Ostend and attacked 3/6000 ton M/V in open Vic formation. 2 aircraft released torpedoes from 30 ft. above sea. 9/22 reported seeing one M.V. hit and sinking. Six small ships attacked by front guns of 2 aircraft. (Chatham, A.C.H.Q. 2210/11, 2/50/11).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

11.9.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Operations (Contd.)

Reports of attacks on convoys by Blenheims off Grisnez

Result of attack one MV of about 300 tons seen to be on fire amidships. Also bombs were dropped close alongside and astern of an MV. about 8000 tons. (Chatham, A.C.H.Q., 2105/11).

Enemy Air Operations

London Docks

In last night's air attacks fires which are still burning heavily were started in St. Katherines Docks. No further damage to ships or other docks is reported. (F.O.I.C., London, 1215/11).

General situation of commercial port am/11. With minor exceptions all quay facilities in the port remain intact. 18 merchant ships sunk or seriously damaged by fire, about 12 with minor damage. Residential areas adjoining all dock areas partially evacuated owing to fires and delay action bombs which continue to detonate . (F.O.I.C., London, 1317/11).

General impression is that conditions are not as bad as they were thought to be on Monday (F.O.I.C. London, 1840/11).

Attack on Eastleigh

Aerodrome attacked by 12 hostiles. Dive bombing East to West. No damage to Naval Station or Naval personnel. Cunliffe Owen Factory several hits and casualties. (Eastleigh, 1620/11). Slight damage (S.C.E. Ports. Dkyd., 1216/12).

Deptford R.V.Y.

Attack on Yard about 1615/11. Description of damage. Victualling Yard temporarily out of action. (Supt. R.V.Y. Deptford, 1740/11, 0920/12).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

11.9.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Operations (Contd.)

Convoy CW.11 attacked, ATHERSTONE damaged.

Attack beaten off Convoy Pewit. (ATHERSTONE 1828/11) 12 aircraft bombing. (ATHERSTONE, 1837/11, 1838/11). ATHERSTONE hit 51°23' N., 1°32'E. requires tugs immediately (FERNIE, 1840/11). Proceed to Sheerness. Pass to TURQUOISE. (C. in C., Nore,2106/11). Convoy attacked 51°23'N., 1°34' E. by 9 JU.87 escorted by 20 fighter aircraft. ATHERSTONE disabled and dropped anchor. (Chatham, A.C.H.Q., 2210/11). Description of attack. Methods employed by enemy (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1617/12).

Raids on Dover

Damage. Raid continues. (Supt. C.E. Chatham, 1831/11). Aircraft dropped 10 bombs in Dover Harbour and a number outside and several more in the town at 1540/11. Another air attack on harbour at 1820 when 16 bombs were dropped. Further signal will be made. (V.A. Dover, 1846/11).

Attack on Convoy WN.14 ALEXIA hit.

ALEXIA bombed at 2115 and hit in engine room in 58°6' N., 2°15' W. BLACK FLY took off crew. SALVAGE KING from Scapa and tug BRIGAND from Kirkwall are being sent. (A.C.O.S., 2254/11, 0036/12, F.O.I.C., Greenock, 0243/12, N.O.I.C., Aberdeen, 2315/12).
S.S. ALEXIA now in tow of BRIGAND proceeding to Kirkwall. Salvage vessel SALVAGE KING sent to the assistance of ALEXIA ran ashore 1 mile west of Duncansby Head 0220/12. EGLINGTON and BUCCANEER and Longhope Lifeboat are standing by SALVAGE KING. (A.C.O.S., 1050/12).

Attack on Sheerness

Damage to oil tanks in attack this afternoon (C. in C., Nore, 2153/11, O.O.W. Sheerness 1235/12).

Attacks on Plymouth

At 2045/11 and 2248/11. R.M. and civilian casualties. Damage to private property. (C. in C., W.A., 0816/12).

BEATHWOOD sunk

Trawler. Attacked and sunk 2230, 1 mile off Montrose. Only 2 survivors. (D.S. 373).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

11.9.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

CACHALOT — Your 1727/10. (Inquiring earliest date she could sail on important operation). pm/13 provided mines can be made available on the Clyde. (V.A.S. 0859/11).

British Mines — Exploded and ashore off Westray. (N.O.I.C., Kirkwall, 2130/11).

Mines off Stavanger — URSULA reports that mines have probably been laid on 58°58' N., 05°08' E. (V.A.S., 2114/11).

Operation SN.41 — Departures Port Z A 2045/10 SCOTT 0730/11 R.A.M.L. in SOUTHERN PRINCE, PORT NAPIER, PORT QUEBEC, MENESTHEUS, JACKAL, ELECTRA, VERSATILE and VIMY to carry out SN.41. (TRELAWNEY, 0731/11).

Enemy Intelligence

Channel — Off Texel seen by aircraft, marked by lighted buoys. (A.C.H.Q., Chatham, 0520/11).

Convoys — Aircraft reports enemy convoy in 51°48' N. 3°50' E. at 0520 14 M.Vs 1000 tons or more course 225° 8-10 knots. (Force C.O.) (A.C.H.Q., Chatham, 0730/11).
Aircraft reports 0400 convoy of about 25 M.Vs in 53°16' N., 4°46'E. course 200° (Chatham, A.C.H.Q., 0753/11).

5 destroyers — Aircraft reports 5 destroyers course 270° 20 knots in 49°25' N., 0°5' W. at 0705 (D.C. 0823/11, Chatham, A.C.H.Q., 0925/11).

Summary — of R/Cs carried out 10/9. (H.Q.C.C. 0900/11).

Transports — Details of some transports at Bremen on 5/9. (D.D.I.C., 1027/11).

7 Ships in convoy — Convoy of 7 ships sighted in 51°0' N., 1°49' E. course westerly. (A.C.H.Q., Chatham, 1540/11).

MOST SECRET

11.9.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence (Contd.)

Rotterdam — Aircraft on Hook reports sighted 24 M.Vs of various tonnages from 5000 to 3000 in 52°15' N., 4°20' E., shadowed this force until they turned into Canal towards Rotterdam 51°58' N., 4°8' E. at 1430. (Chatham, 1640/11).

Calais — 3 Flak ships and 1 E-boat off Calais. No convoy sighted. No M.Vs in Calais harbour. (A.C.H.Q., Chatham, 2215/11).

Boulogne Wimereux — PRU. Sortie. (PIU.0152/12).

Belgian and French Coast — Examination of photographs. General impression is that definitely large shipping units in considerable numbers are moving west to occupy positions Flushing Boulogne and beyond. (PIU. 1522/11).

Transport Sunk — Attacked and sunk one 10,000 tons transport in entrance to Kattegat 2/9. Air patrol and infrequent surface patrol in this area. (STURGEON, 2222/11).

Pontoons — Report from Holland of pontoons made by rivetting together units of 3 600 ton barges. (N.A., Stockholm, 1250/11).

Calais — At 0915/11 spotting aircraft over Calais reported Basin Carnot clear of ships and a few barges lying alongside East Wall Outer Harbour and a few small M.Vs in outer harbour. (V.A. Dover, 1134/11).

Casualties & Defects

WOOD HERNDON — U.S. destroyers in collision. Estimated duration of repairs WOOD one week. HERNDON one month. (F.O.C. 3 B.S. 1742/11).

M.T.Bs 29 & 71 — See Operations - Dover shelled.

SALVAGE KING — See Enemy air operations, Attack on WN.14.

War Diary

MOST SECRET

11.9.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoys:

OA.213	Route. (N.C.S.O., Methil, 0941/11).
8 M.Vs.	Group of 8 arrived (N.C.S.O., Dartmouth, 0830/11).
HX.70	ST. KEENAN to R.V. Route. (C. in C., W.A., 1020/11). (1020/11 cancelled (1253/11). Meet. (C. in C., W.A., 1410/11, amended 1153/12). EMERALD to leave for Clyde. (D.O.D.(H) 1622/11).
SL.45	JASON and HIBISCUS left OA.210 at 2200/10 to meet. (JASON, 0500/11).
OA.211	ST. KEENAN to meet. (C. in C., W.A., 1253/11).
Fast Convoy	Intend sailing fast convoy comprising DUCHESS OF ATHOLL for Halifax, ORBITA for Bermuda, ROSLIN CASTLE for Cape, MARTIN BAKKE for Panama, escorted by OTTAWA and SKEENA at 2130/12 to R.V. with REVENGE, escorted by ANTELOPE and AMAZON. Position and routes. Fighter code word "Datum". (F.O.I.C., Liverpool, 1135/11 amended 1528/11).
Iceland	No objection to ST. CLAIR included in next Iceland convoy. (C. in C., Rosyth, to A.C.O.S., 1923/11).
F.N. & F.S.	Cancelling 1847/6 and substituting new list of escorts FN. and FS. 78 -81. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1620/11). Cancelling 1044/3/8. Revised time table for FS.79 and FN.79. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1557/11).
OB.214	Route. (C. in C., W.A., 1610/11).
MT.	Will leave Methil 1230/12, close escort WESTMINSTER, VALOROUS, who are subsequently to escort FS.79. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1550/11).
OA.215	Route. (C. in C., W.A., 1630/11).
SL.47	MOOLTAN to R.V.. (C. in C., S.A., 1017/11).
LFG.1	F.O.I.C., Liverpool, 1135/11 and Adty. 1240/11. Sail ARROW to R.V. with OTTAWA, SKEENS and convoy LFG.1. (C. in C., W.A., 1831/11).
SC.3	My 1938/3. Delete WILLIAM H.DANIELS, sailed in SC.4. (D.T.D., 1204/11).
SL.48	Adty. 1944/10. Fortnightly convoy Sl.48, R.V. position and date. Request confirmation of longitude. (N.C.S.O., Freetown, 1128/11).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

11.9.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping (Contd.)

Convoys:
(Contd.)

SC.4 — Draft sailing telegram. (N.O.I.C., Sydney C.B., 1303/10).

HX.72 — Sailing telegram as amended by Adty. (D.T.D., 1842/11). Date and route. (D.T.D., 1256/11).

OB.212 — List and destinations. (N.C.S.O., Liverpool, 0926/11).

Port of London — Adty. 2032/10. List of ocean going vessels expected to undock am/12. (N.C.S.O. London 2057/11).

KYLE FISHER — Your 2241/10. To reduce escort commitments, KYLE FISHER not to proceed beyond Rosyth for the present. (D.O.D.(H) to C. in C., Rosyth, 1746/11).

ULSTER MONARCH
CHITRAL — ANTELOPE and AMAZON to escort. (C. in C., W.A., 1149/11).

War Diary. MOST SECRET.

11.9.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Movement of French Force From Toulon.

N.A. Madrid's 1809/10. HOTSPUR sighted lights of 6 ships, probably warships, steering west at high speed. Position at 0515/11, 36.03 N., 04.14' W. I direct HOTSPUR to take no action (F.O.C.N.A. 0617/11).

My 0617. Intend to keep in touch with this force by air and will report probable destination. (F.O.C.N.A.0711/11).

My 0617. French cruisers GEORGES LEYGUES, GLOIRE, MONTCALM, French light cruisers LE MALIN, LE FANTASQUE, L'AUDACIEUX, passed from Eastward to Westward at 0837. First-named signalled signal letters of ships in company in reply to demand. F.O.C.N.A.0917/11).

RENOWN

RENOWN and all available destroyers raise steam for full speed. (V.N.C.S.1239/11).

My 0917. A/c reports position course and speed of these ships at 1200 zone minus 1, 035°., 00' N. 06° 40' W. 213°,20 knots. (F.O.C.N.A.1259/11).
Ships and authorities advised (F.O.C.N.A. 1316/11).

Force H. to Contact.

My 1239/11. Proceed to sea and endeavour to obtain contact with French force. Further instructions follow. (V.C.N.S. 1347/11).

My 1437. If French force is proceeding to Southwards, inform them there is no objection to their going to Casablanca, but that they cannot be permitted to go to Dakar, which is under German influence. If Force appears to be proceeding to Bay ports, inform them this cannot be permitted as these ports are in German hands. Minimum force to be used to enforce compliance. (1st S.L., to V.A.(H), 1429/11).

War Diary. MOST SECRET.

11.9.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Movement of French Force From Toulon. (Contd.)

Making for Casablanca.

Your 1347. French Squadron appears to be making for Casablanca. (F.O., (H) 1437/11) to Admty).

Your 1347. RENOWN and 3 destroyers sailing about 1600. 3 more destroyers recalled from hunting U-boat will leave Gibraltar 1800. (S.O., (H) to Admty, 1500/11).

North Atlantic.

Position.

Three French cruisers type GEORGES LEYGUES and three cruisers LE FANTASQUE Class approaching Gibraltar from East at 0515Z/11. (D.O.D.(F) to C.-in-C., Med., S.A., etc., 1502/11).

Arrived Casablanca.

My 1316/11. Aircraft report Force entering Casablanca 1605. (F.O.C.N.A. 1636/11).

Daily Summary Operations mentions HOTSPUR report, and adds "unobtrusive shadowing by London A/c all day. Force entered Casablanca." (200 Group, 1715/11, to Air Ministry).

Force H. to patrol.

My 1429/11 and F.O.C.N.A.1636/11. Establish patrol as necessary so that French Force can be intercepted if they sail southward from Casablanca. (A.C.N.S. (F), to F.O., Force H., 2006/11).

Your 1636/11. Endeavour to obtain information through Tangier of ultimate destination of French forces. (A.C.N.S.(F) 2301/11, to F.O.C.N.A.)

Further movements.

Following from Consul-Gen., Tangier. Following from sure French source graded (A). Sub-divisional unit of French Navy which passed through Straits this morning bound South West for Casablanca believed advance guard of French Fleet which will pass through Straits at full speed early tomorrow, No T.O.O. (F.O.C.N.A. 2100/11, to Admty).

War Diary. MOST SECRET.

11.9.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic

Following passed to you for information addressed to Admiral, Gibraltar, etc., my telegram 335/9 to F.O. (R) Gibraltar 142. French sorce (Graded A) confirms that SANTA MARIA left Tangier 8/9 for Casablanca for purpose mentioned. Permit has been delivered by Wiesbaden for embarkation of Mr. Chautemps and S.N.O. French Officials. Another Portuguese sailing ship SAN ANTONIO 8th has also been chartered by French for voyage from Casablanca to Portugal precise purpose unknown at present.

(Consul-Gen. Tangier 1010/11).

TRITON. TETRARCH.	V.A.S. 1947/29 and 2306/5. WRESTLER will R.V. with TRITON and TETRARCH, time and position, and provide escort to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 1750/11).
Gibraltar Dockyard.	In view of increased commitments expected with completion of No.1 dock, suggesting refits of 13th Flotilla be carried out at Home Dockyards. (A.C.N.A. 1258/11).
RENOWN.	Re ammunition. (S.O. Force H, 1020/11). See Operations Vol.
Convoy W.S.3.	My 1610/2. Sailing of W.S.3 postponed (date). (D.O.D.(F)) to C.-in-C, S.A. C.-in-C., E.I. and Med, etc. 1428/11).
A.P.3. SHEFFIELD.	CILICIA and WOLFE to take over ocean escort for A.P.3. from SHEFFIELD in 55.20.N, 1600 W. at 0800 (12. SHEFFIELD to return to Clyde at best possible speed. On arrival Freetown, CILICIA and WOLFE to patrol as previously ordered. (D.O.D.(F) 2043/11).
Situation.	Situation report. Weggand's mission to West Africa. Reported he will arrive Dakar 11/9. (G.O.C. West Africa 0111/11). Situation Report French Africa No.11 (D.N.I. 1931/11).

War Diary. MOST SECRET.

11.9.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

NORSEMAN. Cable ship proceeding in vicinity of Rio de Janeiro. (S.O.I. Freetown, 0806/11).

MOOLTAN. ~~R.V.~~ R.V. Convoy S.L.47. (C.-in-C., S.A., 1017/11).

A.P.2. Expected time of arrival Durban 1600/13 Zone - 2. (AJAX, 2221/11).

Mediterranean.

Maps. Requesting large scale maps of certain ports. (F.O. Force H, 1025/11). (See Mediterranean Vol.)

Malta. Civil and Army stocks so low that convoys required to satisfy requirements constitute a heavy commitment for Fleet. (C.-in-C., Med. 0103/11).

Stocks

Tunisia. Admty.1511/1/8. Robert successfully landed 10/9 in Tunisia by seaplane. Intends to try and get data re searched channels and minefields along N. African Coast. Request General de Gaulle be informed. (S.O.I. Malta, 1151/11).

Malta A/A Guns. Lay-out for additional A/A guns, approved by Governor. (details). (V.A., Malta, to C.-in-C., Med. 1423/11).

French Evacuations. Your 1301/7. Request you ascertain from Admiral Godfroy number of troops and reservists to be repatriated, etc. (Head of M. to C.-in-C., Med. 1901/11).

Ambassador Cairo's 1067/10th to F.O. This tel. was sent without reference to me and was evidently made without knowledge of facts. two-thirds of French Officers and men of French Squadron left Egypt some time ago for Syria and have now sailed for France. Remaining third are for care and maintenance purposes and though I hope to

reduce/

MOST SECRET.

11.9.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

reduce this number to one quarter, the extra number who would go are only of the order of two or three hundred men. Question is in hand and I trust that no action will be taken without prior reference to me.
(C.-in-C., Med.2051/11).

Mediterranean (Air).

Tel Aviv. My 1944/9. Report now confirms casualties at Tel Aviv approx. 100 killed and 150 injured. (N.O.I.C., Haifa, 1243/11).

Reconn. Malta Air Intelligence report up to 1800/11. All times local Enemy activity over Malta nil. Reconn. by Skuas East Coast of Sicily from 1039 to 1329 hours. Reported: destroyer steering 909 outside Messina Straits. Nil in Straits. August - 1 destroyer and 2 merchant vessels 2,000 and 3,000 tons respectively, latter being new arriv 1. Syracuse - small craft. Catania - nil.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1620/11).

East Indies.

ARAWA My 1822/10. On reaching 75° E. to cruise at economical speed in area bounded by 15° S., 20° S., 75° E. 80° E. (C.-in-C., E.I. 06402/11).

D.F. Bearings. Q.C.111. Second wireless station in operation Port Sudan uses call sign S.T.P. in approx. position 19°38'08", 37°13'29". Direction finding bearing must therefore be treated with reserve until identity of station is established. (S.O.I., Colombo, 0440/11).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

11.9.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies (Contd.)

NEPTUNE — To proceed at 20 knots towards 25° S., 70° E. (C. in C., E.I., 0510Z/11, 1510/11).

Positions — My 1940/10. Positions of WESTRALIA, oiler SLAVOL, oiler OLCADES, and tanker CLYDEFIELD. (C. in C., E.I., 0542Z/11).

Shipping — N.O.I.C. Port Sudan's 1403Z/10 and S.N.O. Red Sea's 1316/10. VARSOVA and DARONIA detached in position 021°20', 038°15' at 0500Z proceeding independently to Suez. Remaining ships and SHOREHAM anchoring in Cohamer Gul sailing as necessary to make R.V. (SHOREHAM, 0525Z/11).

Suspicious Ship — British BRITISH SOLDIER reports sighting at 1315/1 in 007°20' S., 045°50' E. ship identical with ELANDSFONTEIN three quarters loaded. No guns seen. Course 20. Distance 8 miles, was in sight for two hours. My 1030/1/8 also Cape Area Intelligence note 79 para 6 and 81 supplement refer. (S.O.I., Capetown, 1610/11).

PERLA — My 0834/3/8 information obtained by Sudan Govt. from Italian Air Force prisoners that submarine was subsequently floated and towed to Massawa. (C. in C., E.I., 2010Z/11).

East Indies - Air.

Operations — One Blenheim. Bombing and photographic recco. Assab Port 1325 G.M.T. results not observed. A.A. heavy and fairly accurate. 3 Blenheims Individual Escort Patrol Convoy B.S.4 1 S.79 made recco. 0930 G.M.T. Aden, no bombs dropped. Fighters and A.A. in action. One Gladiator intercepted unable close due superior speed of raider. No casualties. (Air H.Q., Aden, 1941/11).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

11.9.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America and West Indies

Canadian Destroyers — Your 1501/2. Welcome arrangement under which 6 destroyers to be manned by Canadian personnel would be commissioned as part of R.C.N. Suggest they be commissioned as ships of the R.C.N. as soon as Canadian crews can be provided, being regarded meanwhile as lent to Canadian Govt. for service in R.C.N. Gratefully accept proposal that 4 of the 6 destroyers be maintained in U.K. Home Waters, bringing the Canadian destroyer contribution here up to a flotilla of 8. (1st S.L. 1039/11, to C.N.S. of Canada).

St. John's F/B base. — My 1301/8. Governor of Leeward Islands has received telegram from S. of S. for Colonies that "We wish to reserve St. Johns harbour as Flying Boat Base." Request I may be informed of all areas in place concerned which it is in ended to reserve for our exclusive use. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1002/11).

U.S. Destroyers — Call sign, etc., allotted. (D.S.D., 1822/11).

WOOD, HERNDON — Ex- U.S. destroyers. Collision when entering harbour last night. Both require docking. Estimated repairs to WOOD one week, HERNDON one month. (F.O. 3 B.S., 1742/11).

Defects — My 1902/7. Machinery defects require immediate attention. Destroyers will be sailed in groups as they become fit for ocean passage. Dates will be signalled when known. (R.A., 3 B.S., 1744/11).

DUNEDIN DESPATCH — Due to emergency measures necessary in Home Waters regretted DUNEDIN and DESPATCH must be withdrawn temporarily from your command. To proceed to U.K. forwith at best possible speed. (D.O.D.(F) 1819/11 to C. in C., W.A.I.). Adty. 1819/11 DUNEDIN proceed Bermuda forthwith at best possible speed. DESPATCH proceed likewise to Bermuda early as possible am/12/9 avoiding publicity.
Your 1819/11. Intend to sail DESPATCH and DUNEDIN in company from Bermuda on 15/9.
(C. in C., A.W.I., 1652/11 to Adty.)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

11.9.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia

Dutch Ships, US.5 — Your 1031/10. Present situation. Subject to no fresh development US.5 will sail from Sydney 14/9. Anticipated programme. (A.C.N.B. to D. of S.T. 2116Z/11).

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

WINNETOU — Your 1835/10. WINNETOU arrived Kobe 29/8 (N.A., Tokyo to D.N.I. 1644/11).

MONTE OLIVIA — Had steam up at the Wiesbaden Bucke on 11/9. (D.S. 373).

PIONIER — 3235 tons, acknowledged in a German communique to have been wrecked in Kattegat and abandoned by crew and "soldiers on leave from Norway". Swedish Press reports losses were 4,000 soldiers, and ship's boats bore name of MARION. (D.S. 373).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

11.9.40.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

HARPENDEN — British, 4678 tons, apparently a straggler from Convoy OA.210 torpedoed 55.34 N., 15.56 W. at 0140 G.M.T. (Scapa W/T, no T.O.O./11). HARPENDEN torpedoed 55.34 N., 15.51 W., still afloat, requires immediate assistance. (Malin Head Radio, 0755/11, Port Patrick Radio, 0911/11). JASON and H IBISCUS to attack submarine. (C. in C., W.A., 0347/11, 0937/11). Expect to arrive 1115 (JASON 0500/11). Am taking in tow, stern shot away but not making further water, 1 missing. (JASON, 1002/1)(D.S., 372). MARAUDER left Oban 0445 to assist. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1325/11). Position course and speed, 55.30 N., 15.25 W., 92°, 5 knots, HARPENDON in tow. (JASON, 1440/11).

MAAS — Dutch, 1966 tons, torpedoed 55.34 N., 15.56 W. at 0140 G.M.T. (Scapa W/T, no T.O.O./11). 2 survivors. (JASON, 1002/11). Straggler from convoy OA.210 (D.S.372). Tug sent to assist.

POSSIDON (torpedoed 8/9) — Has sunk. 10 survivors landed. (D.S. 373).

Submarines Reported

0240 — A.F. message 55.34 N., 15.56 W. at 0140/11 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C., 0809/11). JASON and HIBISCUS to attack (C. in C., W.A., 0347/11). Expect to arrive 1115. (JASON, 0500/11).

1351 — Aircraft reported submarine and oil patch in 54.02 N., 04.08 W., Have detached WARWICK to investigate. (ENCHANTRESS, 1351/11).

1744 — Unidentified submarine reported by aircraft 51.02 N., 2.00 E., course west. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 2140/11, C.in C. Nore, 2224/11).

2349 — D.F., probable U/B, 54.25 N., 12.0 W. (H.Q. 15 Group 0305/12).

2240-2322 — 58.20 N., 3.30 E., indefinite position. (D.S. 373).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

11.9.40.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported (Contd.)

1959 — 56° N., 2° E., very indefinite position. (D.S. 373).

1112 — 55.50 N., 20° W., indefinite position. (D.S. 373).

1800 — 55.54 N., 11.24 W., reported by A/S.T. ST. KEENAN. (D.S. 373).

2349 — 54.25 N., 11.13 W., indefinite, possibly further north and the same as 1800.

1058 — 54.06 N., 4.13 W., P/S reported by training Aircraft. (D.S. 373).

Estimated U/B Dispositions

German - 3 in N.W. Approaches, of which 1 was in 55°34' N. 15°56' W. at 0230/11; no news of the other two.
At least 1 far out in the Atlantic.
1 was near N Fair Island at 2048/10 homeward bound.
1 in about 57°20' N; 4°15' E. at 1931/10 outward bound may pass through Fair Island Channel tonight.

Italian - 2 probably between Portugal and Azores.
(D.D.I.C. 1226/11).

My 1532/8 Re daily signals re positions of submarines. para (1) for 0600 read 0700.
(D.C. 1815/11).

Submarines Attacked

1345-1700 — ST. KEENAN and ST. LOMAN attacked apparently U-boat contact between positions 56.01 N., 11.12.5 W. and 55.54 N., 11.24 W. between 1345 and 1700/11. Doppler present. Extent of target 10°. Large quantity of light oil brought to surface. After 5th attack line of air bubbles 250 feet in length lasting several minutes. After last attack several explosions not due to depth charges. 45 depth charges dropped. Depth of water 1400 fathoms. No contact after last attack trawlers and aircraft searching vicinity till dark tonight. (C. in C., W.A., 1343/12).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

12.9.40.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Sweep of French Coast by Portsmouth Destroyers — WOLVERINE, SALADIN, VANOC and VOLUNTEER last night carried out a sweep of the French Coast from St. Valery en Caux to Le Touquet to locate and destroy enemy craft.

Sweep off Dutch Coast — 3 destroyers under D.21 last night carried out a sweep off the Dutch coast to destroy any ships met and to capture prisoners. Visibility was excellent throughout, but no ships were sighted.

M.T.B Operations Cancelled — Sweeps by M.T.Bs between Calais and Dunkirk and between Nieuport and Flushing with the particular object of capturing prisoners, were cancelled on account of the weather.

CARDIFF — Is placed under the orders of C. in C., Portsmouth and will not take up duties as Gunnery Firing ship until further orders.

British Air Operations

The Naval objectives successfully attacked last night were shipping and barges at Boulogne, Calais, Ostend and Flushing. The gun positions at Cape Gris Nez were bombed but results were not observed. The ship building yards at Bremen, seaplane base at Borkum, Blohm and Voss Shipyard and Hamburg, docks and shipping at Bremerhaven, quays at Harburg, docks at Wilhelmshaven were also attacked with success.

Today attacks were made on Danish fishing boats in the Bight, the jetty at Havre and on a force of 15 merchart vessels at anchor off Cap de la Heve, a merchant vessel and a tanker being hit.

Many photographs were taken of Dutch, Belgian, and French ports; photographic R.C. of Kiel to Wilhelmshaven was attempted, but was not successful, owing to the weather.

War Diary

MOST SECRET

12.9.40.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Operations

The situation at the commercial Port of London this morning is as follows. Surrey Commercial Docks are closed on account of unexploded bombs; there are further warehouse fires and one further ship is on fire. Millwall Dock entrance to West India and Millwall Docks is out of action, but South dock entrance is still available. Further damage has been done to warehouses at London and St. Katherine Docks. Entrance to Western Dock is blocked by sinking barge. At the Royal Docks sufficient power is available to work the locks in cranes are stopped. Ocean going ships are now leaving the docks.

S.S. GLENROY was hit by an incendiary bomb last night, at Liverpool, slight damage being done. Little damage was done at the town and port.

There was a notable increase in the number of reconnaissances today, otherwise enemy activity was on a much reduced scale.

A.M.C. WOLFE while proceeding to join Convoy AP.3 was attacked by 4 a/c about 250 miles west of Donegal at 1420 today. One bomb near missed the ship and 1 time bomb landed on deck and was thrown overboard. Slight superficial damage was caused, but WOLFE proceeded as escort to her convoy.

S.S. TINTERN ABBEY, proceeding independently, was bombed and gunned off Calf of Man at 1140 today and was taken in tow, abandoned, for Port St. Mary, I. of Man.

Mining

Operation SN.41 — 1st M.L. Squardon laid a deep minefield in the N.W. Approaches last night.

Aircraft mining — Two out of 3 Swordfish successfully laid mines at Le Havre last night. Three magnetic mines were laid in the Elbe during the same night.

Enemy mining — Enemy minelaying by aircraft last night is suspected in the Thames Estuary, off the coasts of Northumberland and Aberdeenshire, off the Sussex coast and south of the Isle of Man.

The .....

War Diary

MOST SECRET

12.9.40.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT

Mining (Contd.)

Enemy mining (Contd.)

The Amble is closed.
Minelaying by a merchant vessel is suspected off the Start and a sweep was carried out in the area.
The British tanker GOTHIC (2444 tons) was sunk by a mine off Spurn Point today.

French Fleet

VIDETTE at 0305 sighted a French destroyer in 33°55' N. 8°31' W. steering 340° at 25 knots. After illuminating the destroyer VIDETTE opened fire, as the destroyer appeared to be acting in a hostile manner. Fire was not returned, and VIDETTE ceased fire when the other signalled her name. No damage was done.

East Indies

3 Blenheims dropped bombs on warehouses and jetties at Assab today, scoring a direct hit. It is confirmed that in the attacks on Massawa by the R.A.F. on 4/8 and 6/8 one submarine was damaged by bombs, and that a large destroyer was badly damaged on 2/9.

North Atlantic

The coast of Morocco as far as Casablanca was reconnoitred by our aircraft today.

War Diary

MOST SECRET

12.9.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

U.S. Destroyers Your 1209/9. First Flotilla has no A/S device; so inconvenience of detailing special A/S escorts for R.A.M.L. must be accepted till U.S. Destroyers fitted. (V.C.N.S., 1319/12 to C. in C., H.F.).

Defence of U.K.

For repelling an invasion supported by old German battleships or by any ships mounting bigger guns than 6 inch I should be entirely dependent on support moved South from the Home Fleet. Such an attack would seem likely to approach our coast between lat. 52°N. and 53° N. (C. in C., Nore, 0946/12 to C.N.S.)

German Main Units. Kiel 5th Sept. B/Crs. GNEISENAU and SCHARNHORST in floating docks. Pocket Battleship LUTZOW in dry dock.

Wilhelmshaven 11/9. TIRPITZ completing.

Bremen 11/9. SEYDLITZ completing.

Hamburg 11/9. BISMARCK completing.

Unknown GRAF ZEPPELIN
SCHEER (last located Wilhelmshaven 20/7).
1-8" cruiser last located Kiel 15/8.
1-8" " " " Wilhelmshaven
NURNBERG (5/9.
LEIPZIG
EMDEN
KOLN
(D.D.I.C. 1653/12).

Dover Block-Ship With reference to A/L N L 10038/40 of 7/9 WAR SEPOY has been sunk in accordance with my 1927/7. (V.A. Dover, 2004/12 to Adty.)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

12.9.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Prohibited Area — Ships are to be routed clear of an area bounded by lines drawn 5 miles either side of centre line joining 56°02' N., 8°19' W.; 55°42' N., 7°31' W. between 2045/15 and 1230/16. (C. in C., W.A., 1130/12).

CARDIFF is placed under the orders of C. in C. Portsmouth. She will not take up duties as Gunnery Firing Ship until further orders. (A.C.N.S.(H), 1223/12 to C. in C., Portsmouth).

Nore Command — Anticipated night dispositions 12/13-9. (C. in C., Nore, 0800/12).

AGAMEMNON — Intend to sail at 1300/13 for Sheerness. (F.O.I.C. London 1150/12 to Adty.)

CALIFORNIA — My 1149. ANTELOPE and AMAZON available to escort her inward till dark 16th. Escort for Plymouth will meet her off Hartland Point dawn 17th. (C. in C., W.A., 1151/11 to F.O.C.N.P.)

Nore Command — Day Patrols and Movements to 1200/13. (C. in C., Nore, 1200/12).

EREBUS — Request you report date when expected ready to sail for Sheerness. (D.O.D.(H) 1224/12 to C. in C., H.F.).

SKATE SHIKARI — SKATE leaves convoy dark/12 for Lough Foyle. SHIKARI leaves convoy dawn/13 for Belfast. (C. in C., W.A., 1303/12).

MAIDSTONE — Leaves Rosyth with 2 destroyers via War Channel to Scapa. Request Fighter protection 1700/13, till about 0800/14. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1354/12 to H.Q.F.C.).

SHEFFIELD — Expect arrive Greenock 0200/13. (SHEFFIELD 1444/12 to N.O.I.C., Greenock).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

12.9.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements (Contd.)

5 Destroyers	Request Fighter protection 1900/12 to dark, Plymouth to 180° Start Point 10 miles and thence course 151° speed 20 knots. (C. in C., W.A., 1509/12 to H.Q.F.C.)
Home Fleet Destroyers	H.F. Destroyers at Rosyth are not to be moved without orders from me. (C. in C., H.F. 1220/12 to C. in C., Rosyth).
COSSACK	Your 1746/11. COSSACK completes re-fit 13/9. Intend to employ her to escort KYLE FISHER to Scapa. (C. in C., H.F., 1731/12 to Adty.)
Portsmouth Nightly Patrol	am/0111/12. L.27 will arrive on patrol area pm/13. Intend then to carry out nightly patrols of four destroyers between Portsmouth and Eastern Limit of Portsmouth Command keeping clear of submarine patrol areas. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1733/12 to Adty.)

Operations

Suspicious Ship	Patrol chasing suspicious vessel steering S.S.W. from a position 120° Berry Head 20 miles at 0530. Investigate. (C. in C., W.A., 0553/12 to WITHERINGTON, BLYSKAWICA).
Sweep off Dutch Coast	Your 1700/11 sweep carried out but no ships met. D.21's signalled report will be forwarded as soon as received. (C. in C., Nore, 1025/12 to Adty.) Following received from D.21 begins:- Sweep carried out parallel to coast R.5 miles of Shoals between Steen Bank and Gooree Gat. visibility excellent thoughout. No ships sighted. 0950/12 ends. (C. in C., Nore, 1122/12).

BROKE, WITHERINGTON, VANSITTART, BURZA, BLYSKAWICA sailed 1900/12 to sweep towards Start Point thence along French Coast from Roches Douvres to Westward thence 180° Lizard 10 at 0800/13. (C. in C., W.A., 1503/12).

MOST SECRET

12.9.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations (Contd.)

Sweep from Cherbourg to Le Havre

HIGHLANDER take HARVESTER BULLDOG and BEAGLE under his orders and leave Portsmouth today Thursday passing gate at 1930 to carry out sweep of French coast from off Cherbourg eastwards towards Le Havre to locate and destroy enemy craft.
On completion of sweep return to Portsmouth passing Nab Tower 0600/13.
Fighter cover until dark today Thursday has been requested. Code Word BOARD.
W/T Guard to be kept on 385 kcs. until dark.
Aircraft will be patrolling Channel between 2040 and 2340.
The capture of prisoners is important.
(C. in C., Portsmouth, 1513/12).

Sweep from Boulogne to C. Gris Nez.

MALCOLM, WILD SWAN, VENOMOUS are to sail at 1900/12 and proceed to vicinity of Boulogne then sweep toward Cape Gris Nez.
Object the destruction of any shipping or barges met off French coast. Prisoners are required if possible.
If practicable sweep to 50°51' N., and then return to Harwich. Course to pass south of Le Colbart would seem desirable if shore batteries are troublesome.
Reports indicate barges may be making for Boulogne during the night.
(C. in C., Nore, 1750/12 to D.16).
Informing D.9 and HIGHLANDER. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 2047/12).

Operation DH.

1st S.L. 0122/12 to C. in C., H.F. See Operations Volume.

Sweep from Cape Barfleur to Cape Le Havre

Asking him to consider carrying out a sweep between Cape Barfleur and Cape Le Havre with destroyers tonight. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1708/12 to C. in C., Portsmouth).

LORD PLENDER

Show light from position X in direction 190° true from 0300 to dawn then return to harbour. (N.O.I.C. Harwich, 2248/12 to LORD PLENDER).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

12.9.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines

Patrols off French Coast

H.43 is placed under orders of C. in C., Portsmouth who is requested to establish submarine patrols as follows:-
A. L27 between Dieppe and Cape D'Antifer.
B. H43 off Cherbourg.

To enable these patrols to be maintained TALISMAN is to be lent temporarily to C. in C. Portsmouth forthwith and UTMOST and UPRIGHT will be placed under orders of C. in C., Portsmouth when working up is completed. When both these ships have joined TALISMAN will return to Second Flotilla. (D.C., 0111/12 to C. in C., Portsmouth, C. in C., W.A.).

PORPOISE

PORPOISE reports no traffic observed between 045° 10' N., and 043°50' N. PORPOISE is proceeding to alternative position. (V.A.(S) 1004/12 to TAKU).

Your 1302/11 and my 1943/5. On completion of F D 26 proceed well clear and then patrol to west and S.W. of Ile De Croix. In view of full moon conditions do not attempt to keep a close patrol. If your position becomes known to enemy you are to withdraw well to seaward and report. (V.A.(S) 1048/12 to PORPOISE).

H.49

My 1158/8. S/m base at Harwich will now be required for a short period after 15th Sept. H.49 and H.44 are to remain based at Harwich for the time being. (V.A.(S) 1021/12 to S.3, S.7, S.O.S/ms Harwich).

H.49

At 1005 you were probably sighted and reported by enemy aircraft. (F.O.S/ms 1117/12 to H.49).

Positions

For following 24 hrs. at 0700/13. Areas A and B. (V.A.S. 1703/12).

S/m Patrol Areas D.4 and W.2

Patrol Areas D.4 and W.2 are established as follows. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1733/12 to Adty.)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

12.9.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines (Contd.)

L.27 am/1532/8. L.27 leaves Portsmouth 0530 for 50°5' N., 0°17' E. proceeding submerged by day. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1737/12 to Adty.)

Adty's 1833/7/7 Greenock Area movements (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1755/12).

H.43 My 1705/12. Add S/m H.43 escorted by trawler sails Plymouth 2030/12 for Portsmouth. (C. in C., W.A., 1935/12 to C. in C., Portsmouth).

E-boats

French Coast At 0950 in 49°30' N., 2°10' W. 8 E-Boats steering S.S.W. for Cherbourg. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q. 1050/12 to Adty.)

British Air Operations

Attack on Fishing Boats 15 small craft bearing 180° 2 miles on approx. course 290° my position 55°25' N., 5°30' E. have attacked fishing boats. (Donibristle, 0920/12).

Air Searches In Rosyth Area for 13/9. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1916/12).

O.P. Area One aircraft will be on moonlight patrol in O.P. area tonight. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1918/12).

Bomber Command Intelligence report for night 11/12. (H.Q.B.C. 1920/12).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

12.9.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity

London Docks — My 1317/11. Position am/12 as follows: (F.O.I.C., London 1317/12 to Adty.)

WOLFE — My 1355. One near miss. One time bomb on deck. Superficial damage. Bomb thrown overboard. (WOLFE, 1440/12 to Adty.).

TITERN ABBEY — Bombed and machine-gunned at 1238/12 at 270° Chicken Rock 6 miles. Ship abandoned. Master and crew landed Port St. Mary, Isle of Man. No casualties. Have sent tug AMSTERDAM from Holyhead to tow to Port St. Mary. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1800/12 to Adty. N.O.I.C. Holyhead 1906/12 to Adty. TINTERN ABBEY, 1140/12).

Dover — Details of damage by air raid, 11/9. (Supt. C.E. Chatham, 1826/12).

Mining

Amble — Port closed-due to suspected minelaying (F.O.I.C., Tyne, 0637/12).

GOTHIC — Sunk by mine approx. 130° Spurn Pt. lighthouse 3.6 miles (F.O. Humber, 1205/12).

SN.41 — Completed 0030/12. (RA.M.L. 1330/12).

Explosions — Heard in direction of Beachy Head. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 1612/12).

Suspected mine-laying — At 0500/12 Polish patrol off Dartmouth sighted M.V. 50.15 N., 03.02 W., heading S.E., 18 knots. May be vessel of which D.F. bearing given in Adty. 0920/12. As minelaying suspected, sweep being carried out in area. (C. in C., W.A., 1659/12).

"Snail" renamed "CADET TWO" — Snail in future to be known as Cadet 2. Position. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1840/12).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

12.9.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining (Contd.)

Minesweeping — Request fighter protection M/S trawlers, "Gamma", positions and times. (C. in C., W.A., 1919/12).
5 M/S trawlers sail Plymouth pm to R.V. 0630/13 090° Start Point 5. (C. in C., W.A.,1935/12).

CACHALOT. F.S.D.1 — Scattered in groups within circle of 1½ miles radius and centre 47.48 N., 04.33 W. (V.A.S., 2054/12).

Enemy Intelligence

Ships in German Ports — PRU Sortie H/191 11/9 shows:- BISMARK still in same berth at Hamburg also great reduction of shipping which will be specified in later signal. In Bremen SEYDLITZ still present and 3 or 4 s/ms departed ~~xxx~~ much reduction of merchant tonnage. In Bremerhaven Liners BREMEN and EUROPA still present and other shipping in harbour largely unchanged but vessels anchores in stream have left. In Wilmshaven TIRPITZ still present no other major naval units. Since 6/9 one destroyer and 7 T/Bs have left. 3 destroyers and 5 T/Bs still present. A minelayer probably OLAV TRYGGVASON arrived and MONTE OLIVA Liner at the Wiesbaden Brucke has steam up. In Emden 12 Steamers in new inner harbour which is reduction of 6 since 6/9. Small craft almost entirely departed and barges increased by 25 to 40. (PIU 0227/12).

Bremen and Hamburg — Reduction of Merchant Shipping in Bremen since 4/9/40 from 63 vessels to 17 vessels. Reduction of Merchant Shipping in Hamburg since 4/9/40 from 147 vessels to 104 vessels. (PIU.0603/12).

Unknown Unit — By D/F at 0825/12. Position of unknown enemy unit probable surface craft was 49°15' N., 2°25' W. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 0920/12).

Havre — At 49°30' N., 0°4' E., 15 stationary M/Vs At 1131/12 in 49°30' N., 0° E., 8 M/Vs of 300 tons steering S.W. at 12 knots. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1407/12). Despatch aircraft to attack. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 1445/12).

MOST SECRET

12.9.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence (Contd.)

French, Dutch and Belgian Ports — PRU. Sortie reports at 0830/12. (PIU. 1655/12 to N.I.D.).

Enemy Barge Movements — Analysis of recent movements by C. in C., Nore's Staff down to 8/9. (C. in C., Nore, 1700/12 to Adty.).

AGUILA — In her letter of proceedings No. 15 dated 28th August 1940 para 37 CALIFORNIA reported the following begins: "About 1930 19/8 I received the message position 31°15' N. 13°02' W. AGUILA shelled 1825/" and the same message repeated at 1909 with the word "gunned" instead of "shelled". Ends.
Request I may be informed whether these messages were received by Adty. (F.O.C.N.P., 1717/12 to Adty.).

Torpedo Boats — At 0950/12, 6 to 8 torpedo boats sighted near Channel Islands steering S.W. (C. in C., W.A., 1913/12 to BROKE).

Gironde — Shipping and situation at 1015/12. (PIU. 1958/12 to N.I.D.)

Skagerrak — Situation. (SNAPPER, 2359/12 to V.A.S.)

Casualties and Defects

SAON and EMPEROR collision — H.M.S. SAON has been in collision with S.S. EMPEROR both in convoy EN.5 in position 58°36' N. 2°55' W. at about 0600. Survivors of EMPEROR in SAON are being landed at Thurso. Search by aircraft has revealed no sign of EMPEROR. (A.C.O.S. 1055/12 to Adty.)

SALVAGE KING (Tug. Sent to help of ALEXIA bombed. 11/9 off Wick). — Double Bottom Flooded but Tank tops apparently holding. Intend attempting refloat next high water. Request Fleet tug BANDIT to assist Fleet Tug BUCCANEER. Failing Fleet Tug BANDIT HEMDON could assist. Position critical. Ship pounding and will probably become total loss is not refloated in 24 hours. (SALVAGE KING 1354/12 to A.C.O.S.).
Ship abandoned at 1800 and can be considered a total loss. All crew safe. Vessel on reef 1½ miles West of Duncansby Head.
(Chief Salvage Officer, 2225/12 to A.C.O.S.).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

12.9.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoys:

SC.3	Meet. (C. in C., W.A., 1240/12).
LFG.1	Sailed escorted by OTTAWA and SKEENA. (F.O.I.C., Liverpool, 1940/12).
EN.5	Position. (Wick, 1935/12).
HX.69A	Passing Rattray Head. (FOWEY, 1840/12).
MT.	Will leave Methil 1230/13, close escort EGRET, WINCHESTER, who are subsequently to escort FS.80 (C. in C., Rosyth, 2240/12).
OB.211	LADY ELSA to rejoin. (C. in C., W.A., 1850/12, VANQUISHER, 2205/12).
OA.212	LADY ELSA to R.V. at 2000/14. (C. in C., W.A., 1850/12).
HX.69	Arrived, escort. (F.O.I.C., Liverpool, 1145/12).
BN. and BS.	Only ships capable of at least 8 knots to be accepted. (C. in C., E.I., 1008Z/12).
SC.4	Position. (D.T.D., 1126/12).
SL.48	Amending 1128/11. (D.T.D. 1100/12 to N.C.S.O., Freetown).
SC.5	Route. (D.T.D., 1056/12).
SL.47	Position and escort. (D.T.D., 1207/12).
Adty.	Adty. 1946/8. Adty. will take over routeing of ocean convoys commencing with HX.73, SC.5, SL.47, OB.216, OA.217 and Liverpool outward fast convoy OL.3. Outward slow independent ships will be routed by Adty. from 0001/14/9. (D.T.D., 1706/12).
Fast Groups. OL & OB Convoys	Adty. 1946/8 para 3(c). It is intended that these fast groups shall be known as OL convoys, all arrangements for sailing being made by N.C.S.O. Liverpool as in the case of OB convoys. Ships of this category from Bristol Channel Ports to be sailed independently to the Clyde for onward routeing. Clyde portions of these convoys to be known as OLC convoys and to be ordered to rendezvous with OL convoys as in the case of OBC convoys. Adty. requested to allocate convoy code words for OL and OLC convoys. (C. in C., W.A., 1950/12).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

12.9.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

TOR — Swedish, intend to sail for Blyth through Trevose Hartland Channel in view of persistent air attacks off Irish Coast. (C. in C., W.A., 1125/12).

London — Adty. 2032/10. (enemy air attacks on Port of London). List of ocean going vessels ready to undock am/13. (N.C.S.O. London, 1845/12). List undocked today (N.C.S.O., London, 1615/12, *1850/12). * 1730/12

ULSTER MONARCH) CHITRAL) — Intend sailing escort by ANTELOPE and AMAZON at 1700/13. Route. Fighter code word "Rivet". (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2111/12).

SC.3 — Your 1240/12 SC.3 noon position 055°42' N., 024°16' W. course 063° speed 6 knots. Unable to divert from present line of approach owing to heavy sea. (DUNDEE, 1803/12)

Raider.

Raider, Faked Signals — Adty. Message - CR. Raider has recently attempted to cancel the distress message made by a ship she has attacked. Fact that cancellation was faked was known from differences in note and operating. Under similar circumstances ships should endeavour to take a bearing and report the facts and bearing of the suspected transmission by coded message. (D.S.D. 1555/12 to all B.M.S.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.9.1940
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation Menace

CUMBERLAND — If CUMBERLAND is not essential for Operation Menace, to be sailed for Clyde at best speed (C.N.S., to C.S. 1., 0015/12)

CORNWALL — Re replacements of CUMBERLAND (See South Atlantic)

North Atlantic

Movement of French Fleet — French destroyer sighted in position 33. 55 N., 08.31 W., at 0305. course 340°, speed 25 knots. If dawn reconnaissance indicates force has sailed for Casablanca request air reconnaissance to westward of Gibraltar based on a bove sighting. (S.O. Force H., 0550/12)

Destroyer Fired On — My 0550. VIDETTE reports that after illuminating French destroyer with searchlight VIDETTE opened fire as destroyer appeared to be acting in a hostile manner. Fire was not returned and VIDETTE ceased fire when destroyer signalled what ship. No hits Occurrence will be investigated in due course. (S.O., Force H., 0617/12)

Patrol off Morocco — Intend to have line of bearing patrol between Cape Blanco and Agadir steaming South by night and North by day inshore destroyers 20 miles (? from) coast.
Weather at present unsuitable for oiling at sea and if this not possible 2 destroyers will have to leave patrol for base at dusk 13/9 patrol then being reduced to 2 Units.
One more destroyer will have to leave at dusk 14/9 reducing patrol to one unit.
Remaining 3 destroyers will probably have to leave at dusk 15/9 by which time first 2 destroyers ? can rejoin. (S.O. Force H. 1109/12)

/ "French Fleet....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.9.1940.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic-Contd.

French Fleet Intentions

Your 0944/11. Nothing certain. French Naval Attache says destination must be Casablanca, Dakar, or other French Colonial port and the explanation claus in armistice about France being allowed to retain Naval Forces in colonies. This is only guessed but probable. He was told in Vichy by Darlan that no ships would get into German hands. Naval Attache stated emphatically ships could not affect escort of convoys. (Madrid, 1033/12 to S.O.I. Gibraltar)

Your 2100/11. Can you ascertain basis of this report? (D.N.I., to F.O.C.N.A. 1244/12) Your 1244. Source almost certainly Jacques- see Consul Gen., Tangier 1824/9 to F.O.C.N.A., (F.O.C.N.A 1502/12) Asking Consul-Gen., Tangier basis of report (F.O.C.N.A., 1506/12)

Your 1506/12 Report was received from French Controller of native affairs in Tangier. He is Colonel of French Colonial Army and quite safe. Original source was French Captain Port Tangier also believed to be be safe. Will check -and report. (Tangier to F.O.C.N.A., 2030/12)

Informing S.O. Force H of Tangier 2030/12 (F.O.C.N.A., 0416/13)

French Movements

French destroyer 4 funnels. 33° 55' N., 08° 30' W., at 0306/12 steering 340° 20 knots. (F.O.C.N.A., 1722/12)

Your 0944/11/9. Naval Attache stated emphatically ships could not affect escort of convoys. Nothing certain. French N.A. says destination must be Casablanca, Dakar or other French Colonial port and the explanation clause in armistice about France being allowed to retain Naval Force in colonies. This is only guessed but probable. He was told in Vichy by Darlan that no ships would get into German hands. (Madrid 1033/12 to S.O. (I) Gib)

/Your 0946.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.9.1940.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic-Contd.

Your 0946/12 (No trace in War Registry ? 1109/12 intended.) In order to meet your requirements all longs (? Coastal reconnaissance flight) patrols to eastward abolished. Maximum effort longs can provide is 2 patrols each giving 3½ hours observation (corrupt group) entailing 14 hours flying daily. Intend begin this routine p.m. today. (F.O.C.N.A. 1232/12)

French Shipping

Your 1630/10. This traffic should not be interfered with for the present. (A.C.N.S., (T) to S.O. Force H., 1350/12)

GRAF SPEE Officers

15 Officers ex GRAF SPEE reported to have escaped from Martin Garcia Island Spanish MOTOMAR passed island about 26/8. Vessel stated in Lloyds to be bound for Florida but reported by N.A. Buenos Aires to be making for Tangier. (Hd. of M. to F.O.C.N.A., 1949/12)

WRESTLER

Left Gib., 2100/12 to R.V. TRITON and TETRARCH (S.O.I., Gib., 2116/12)

South Atlantic

A.P. 3.

Requesting position course and speed. (WOLFE to Admty., 0908/12) Reply. (D.O.D., (F) 1320/12) Position at 2000 (SABRE, 2359/12)

MOOLTAN
CARNAVON CASTLE

My 1017/11 and 1201 and 1949/11. Amend R.V. to read position 16° 50' N., 20° 26' W., at 0600/14. (C. in C., S.A. 0651/12)
Departure 0600/12, MOOLTAN for convoy escort and subsequently for Greenock. (S.O. I., Freetown, 0953N/12)

Aircraft

Admty. 1145/28. Due illness, only three pilots in Y flight fit for duty on 14/9 Information requested on your arrival whether three Swordfish with complete crews or six Swordfish three without pilots should be ready to embark. (C. in C., S.A., to S.O., Force M., 1039/12)

/CORNWALL.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.9.1940.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic- Contd.

CORNWALL

To increase speed so as to arrive end -of searched channel Freetown at 1100/15 (C. in C., S.A., 1937/12.
Your 0015/12. CORNWALL ordered to arrive Freetown a.m/15 is not required for convoy A.P. 3. until p.m./23 and might take place of CUMBERLAND in Force M.
If required CARNAVON CASTLE could arrive Freetown in time to take A.I. 3. on until CORNWALL could rejoin or if CORNWALL was not available CANTON could reach Freetown in time to reinforce CARNARVON CASTLE. Though the above would affect force available for anti-raider activities considerably it is suggested in view of possibility of more urgent requirements. (C. in C., S.A., 2031/12 to Adty.)

MARVIA

My 1803/10. MARVIA arrived Fremantle 11/9. (S.O.I., Freetown, 0851/12)

Suspicious Ship

My 1115/23/8. Subsequent enquiries indicate that suspicious ship sighted by SAINT AGNES in K.1. on 12/8 was in fact the British ship TEESBANK. (C. in C., S.A., 2201N/12)

Suspicious Ship

Master of MMBF (SUSSEX) reports sighted unknown ship 1810 G.M.T.,/10 in 036° 43' 021° 41' E., steering 090° approx. Ship was hull down. Description. No suspicious movments. (S.O. (I) Capetown 1020B/12)

French Ship Movements
CAP DES PALMES

Cameroons Free French Authorities report that CAP DES PALMES 22 knots sailed from Libreville 9/9 or 10/9 en route for Dakar. She carries as prisoners free French hostages from Gabon. Cameroons free French Authorities request ship should be intercepted and if possible hostages retaken.
TOUAREG arrived today now held in Cameroons River reports that following vessels are are Libreville: Submarine SIDI-FERRUCH and one other French Submarine French Sloop BOUGAINVILLE and 2 supply ships. BOUGAINVILLE disembarked 500 native troops, arms and ammunition. Strong rumours of Vichy French Naval action to retake Cameroons and French Equatorial Africa are imminent.
(N.C.S.O. Duala, 2311/12)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.9.1940.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

BUCEGI — Roumanian, detained at Haifa as reprisal for unfriendly acts by Roumanian Govt. G.H.Q., M.E., wishes ti acquire ambulances and other vehicles in cargo. You shoild accordingly requisition. Ship and other cargo to continue to be detained. C.C.S.O., Haifa already authorised to release cargo for Turkey for forward ing on another vessel. Before decision regarding other cargo, we require to know for what purpose you intend to use raw rubber, also whether you wish to take over 500 tons of scrap steel. (W.O., to C. in C., M.E., 1425/12)

Turkey Degaussing — Turks wish to have particulars of D.G. (C. in C., Med., 2351/12)

Operation A.N.3. — Convoy A.N. 3. Escorted by CALCUTTA and 2 destroyers passes Kaso Strait night of 13/14 /9. due Piraeus early 15/9. Escort to return to Alexandria 3rd C.S. with 4 destroyers to give A/A support. Force then to carry out sweep to Dardanelles and Gulf of Salonika (C. in C., Med., 1209/12)

Air

Italy and Soudan — Admty. 1901/2 requesting appreciation of situation re possibility of early Italian action against Soudan. I am in agreement M.E. telegram O/13463 of 5/9. (C. in C., Med., 1315/12)

Transports — Movements of BETINA DEL PACIFICO and and 7 others (D.S.T.O., Suez., 1942/12)

Faster Aircraft — Your 2131/10. Only sufficient Grummans to form or rearm four first line Squadrons of which first two required at home, third and fourth provisionally designate for INDOMINATABLE and IMPLACABLE. Brewsters not on F.A.A., order, but M.A.P., will be asked to transfer some provided armament can be arranged, if obtained these will be sent you for similar use to Gladiators Skuas mentioned my 1908/9 will be sent in any case as they will arrive first. (D.N.A.D., to C. in C., Med., 1817/12)

War Diary

MOST SECRET

12.9.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

BN. & BS Convoys

Only ships capable of maintaining a speed of at least 8 knots through the water can be accepted in BN and BS convoys. Ships with a lower speed and bound for Red Sea Ports and Suez must tranship their cargo East or South of Aden to faster ships. British or Allied shipping not acceptable in convoy will not be allowed to enter Red Sea and Neutral ships will do so at their own risk. (C. in C., E.I., 1008Z/12).

A/c Mining, Red Sea

Your A.381 9/9. Range of Swordfish with extra tanks insufficient to reach Massawa from Suakin. Swordfish and 36 mines were sent specially for Assab. Hampdens are only other R.A.F. type at present available for mining but are unsuitable for use in tropics. Massawa might be mined by aircraft from carrier but employment of carrier in Red Sea is question for C. in C.'s Med. and East Indies. (Air Min., 1300/12, to A.H.Q., Aden).

Censorship

Your 1028/20/8. Considered that authorities at point of departure of despatches are in best position to judge what may be harmful to local interests and that they should therefore exercise the censorship provided for in the Regulations. Request therefore that you will continue to censor messages from the security point of view when naval facilities have been granted. It is presumed that such messages then have to pass through the cable censorship at the point of departure. (Head of M. 1635/12 to C. in Cs E.I. and Med.)

AP.3 SHROPSHIRE, CORNWALL, CARTHAGE

Your 1242/2. A.P.3 sailed on 10/9. Estimated date of arrival at Cape. C. in C., S.A. to confirm on arrival of convoy at Freetown. No ships will require fuel or water between Cape and Suez. If you contemplate employment of SHROPSHIRE after U.S.5 as escort for transports returning with personnel from M.E. to Cape, it would be possible for CORNWALL to continue with AP.3 to Aden. Thus neither Cape nor Arabian Sea would for long be without an eight inch cruiser and CARTHAGE would be available for other service. This would, however, add to already large amount of nearly continuous steaming by both cruisers. (D.O.D.(F), 1727/12 to C. in C., E.I.).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

12.9.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

Routes — Present practice is to route ships between Malaya and Cape widely dispersed either side of direct route. Alternative means of route such as via Achin Head one and half degrees Channel and Mozambique Channel would be little longer. As best means of route must depend on your forces available and their probable dispositions during passage suggest F.O. Malaya and C. in C., South Atlantic be informed from time to time of the mean route about which you wish ships to be dispersed. (C. in C., China, 1031Z/12 to C. in C., E.I.).

America and West Indies

PENDELIS — More about Buckner. See 1223/31/8 (N.O.I.C., Halifax, 1013/12).

U.S. Destroyers — Dates for delivery (N.A. Washington, 1115/12 to D.N.I.). Your 1056/10. Arrangements for degaussing. (B.N.A., Washington, 1255/12, to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa). My 1255. Navy Dept. now informs me that four destroyers of group 2 will be degaussed and 5 or possibly 6 of Canadian Group. (B.N.A., Washington, 1640/12). My 2026/11 and your 1710/10. Dates for delivery of 24 destroyers and remaining 26. Presumed last 6 will be manned by R.C.N. Request date on which this will take place. (D.O.D.(H) to R.A., 3 B.S. 1528/12).

ENCHANTRESS
TC.8 — Expected time of arrival Sydney C.B. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1419/12). My 1233/5. Military request some indication of your arrangements for TC.8. Urgent problem of winter accommodation here necessitates early sailings if in any way possible. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1453/12, to Adty. for D. of S.T.).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

12.9.40.
Thursday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

HELGOLAND — My 1421/15/8. Only officers live on board. No sign of early sailing. (S.O.I., Kingston, 0952/12).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

HARPALYCE (Torpedoed 25/8) — Trawler PRINCE VICTOR reports picking up lifeboat with name S.S. HARPALYCE at 1500/30, position 58.50 N., 6.18 W. Vicinity strew with wreckage. (F.O., Humber, 1210/12).

HARPENDEN — Estimated position, etc., in tow by JASON. (N.O.I.C., Greenock, 1255/12). Tug MARAUDER should join me shortly but owing to weather unlikely that transfer of tow can be effected. (JASON, 1540/12). Tow parted at 2200/12. (D.S. 375).

MAYA — Left Varna for Batoum in ballast (Varna, 1820/12).

Submarines Reported

0200 — Your 0200/12. Remain in vicinity and hunt U-boat. HIBISCUS pass to ST. KENAN and ST. LOMAN. (C. in C., W.A., 0449/12, to ST. KENAN and ST. LOMAN).

0106 — Between 55° and 60° N., about 25° W. (D.S.373).

0730 — Sighted by ST. AGNES, 36.21 N., 21.51 W., in vicinity, 5 miles, just dived. (Valentia Radio, 0730/12, 0734/12, ST. AGNES, 0740/12). Position corrected to 36.14 N., 22.00 W. at 0730 G.M.T. (ST. AGNES, 0844/12). SSSS, ST. AGNES being followed, 36.10 N., 22.15 W., 0854 G.M.T. (Scapa W/T, 1007/12). A.F. message, 36.21 N., 21.51 W. at 0740/12. (D.D.I.C., 1040/12). Advising BULOLO and DUNNOTTAR CASTLE of s/m, 36.14 N., 22.00 W at 0840. (F.O.C.N.A., 1947/12).

War Diary

MOST SECRET

12.9.40.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported (Contd.)

1050 — Sighted by WAIPAWA, 57.53 N., 14.36 W. (WAIPAWA, 1050/12). (D.D.I.C. 1318/12).

0920 — Off Bergen, reliable position. (D.S.373).

Vigo — Report (D.2) that submarine took provisions here last night leaving 0400 today. (Consul, Vigo, 1449/12).

0945 — Periscope sighted by fishing vessel OCEAN GIFT, 58.01 N., 3.40 W. (D.4). (N.O.I.C., Invergordon, 1739/12)(A.C.O.S., 1942/12).

2217 — D.F., probable U-boat, 54.00 N., 22.00 W. unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C., 2337/12).

Estimated U/B Dispositions

German - 3 in N.W. Approaches of which one was probably in 57.53 N., 14.36 W. at 1050/12.
1 was probably somewhere about 56° N. 20° W. at 1112/11.
Also at least 1 far out in Atlantic. Possibly one N. of Scotland outward bound.
1 off Bergen 0920/12.
1 about 58.30 N. 3.30 E. at 2322/11.

Italian - 1 in 36.14 N. 22° W. at 0830/12. Probably another between Portugal and Azores. (D.D.I.C. 1348/12).

Submarines Attacked

By HIBISCUS — JASON obtained promising contact in position 055°27' N., 012°27' W. and HIBISCUS made 4 attacks with little result. After last attack found further contact was obtained and area search for 3 hours. Am proceeding with HARPENDEN in tow escorted by HIBISCUS. Tug MARAUDER should join me shortly but owing to rapidly deteriorating weather conditions it is unlikely that transfer of tow can be effected. (JASON, 1540/12).

By CAPE WARWICK & CAPE PORTLAND — Periscope sighted after first attack, good contact in position 40° 9 miles Butt of Lewis (CAPE WARWICK, 2020/12).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.9.1940.
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Sweep of Brittany Coast

BROKE, WITHERINGTON, VANSITTART, BURZA, and BLYSKAWICA last night carried out a sweep of the French Coast from Roches Douvres to the westward.

Sweep from Cherbourg to Le Havre

HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER, BULLDOG and BEAGLE last night, carried out a sweep of the French coast from Cherbourg to Le Havre to locate and destroy enemy craft and if possible to capture prisoners.

Sweep from Boulogne to C. Gris Nez.

16 in MALCOLM with WILD SWAN and VENOMOUS last night carried out a sweep from Boulogne to Cape Gris Nez, with the same objects as HIGHLANDER's force The operation was unproductive.

Enemy Cruiser

At 1440 today a heavy cruiser of the ALGERIE type was sighted by an A/c of Bomber Command off Calais.

PROTESILAUS

Blockship, whilst in tow of tugs for Scapa broke adrift in heavy sea off Mull today and was abandoned, leaking badly, and sunk by gunfire by one of the escorting A/S trawlers.

Preparation for Invasion

The general trend westward of merchant vessels and some barges continues, and is increasing. The movement of the former is not yet complete, but the total amount involved so far appears to -be about 100 vessels totalling some 300,000 tons.

Fresh information received shows that the barge concentration now numbers about 1700.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.9.1940.
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Operations

Owing to unfavourable weather part of the programme for night operations was cancelled. The following attacks were, however, successfully carried out: on petrol stores at Emden, seaplane base at Nordeney, vessels at Delfzijl, Flushing docks where it is believed an ammunition dump was hit. Flak ships in the North Sea were attacked but clouds prevented observation of results.

Skuas from Hatston attacked oil installations at Bergen today. Weather prevented exact observation of results, which were, however, inconclusive. One merchant vessel of 3000 tons was damage and set on fire. Considerable A.A. fire and fighter opposition was encountered and 2 A/C are missing.

3 out of 13 Blenheims today attacked Calais harbour and a concentration of barges at Ijsselmond, results not being observed; and a convoy of 6 or 7 vessels believed to be tankers off Zeebrugge, one ship of which was hit. The remaining 10 A/C abandoned the task on account of weather.

At 1621 A/C attacked 6 merchant vessels each towing barges, off Boulogne, one bomb bursting in the centre of a group of vessels. A Blenheim attacked a supply ship and a convoy of 15 to 20 tugs, each towing two or three barges, near Boulogne harbour at 1650, scoring two hits on barges.

Enemy Air Operations

Activity last night and today was on a much reduced scale compared with recent periods.

An A/C which appeared to be a Blenheim long nose Bomber, painted to resemble a British machine, dropped 2 bombs in Dover harbour this afternoon.

/Some.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.9.1940.
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Operations-Contd.

Some damage was done in Chatham Dockyard in a raid about noon today.

Incendiary bombs were dropped on or near the Admiralty today. Very slight damage was caused.

At 0700 a single enemy A/C unsuccessfully attacked shipping in Belfast Lough.

Mining

A magnetic mine was detonated at 0910/13 off North Pier Light, North Shields. Between midnight and 0900/13, 13 ships D.G'd left the Tyne and 16 entered safely.

The Amble was opened this morning and Liverpool early this afternoon.

French Fleet

The ultimate destination of the French cruisers which proceeded to Casablanca from Toulon is reported to be Dakar and Duala, and their object to preserve Dakar for Vichy and to try to combat de Gaulle's move in equatorial Africa.

It is reported that a further French Force, possibly including STRASBOURG, was to have left Toulon 11/9 for the Atlantic, for an unknown destination, but the order was cancelled at the last moment, though the cancellation may be only temporary.

At 0405/13. S.O. Force H passed 3 darkened French Destroyers of FANTASQUE class in 31° 25' N., 11° 30' W. steering north at 20 to 25 knots.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.9.1940.
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

French Fleet-Contd.

At 1530 aircraft reported there were no French cruisers in Casablanca. RENOWN proceeded to Gibraltar with 3 destroyers to refuel and expects to be ready to leave at 1500 tomorrow.

East Indies

CERES was three times attacked by enemy aircraft early this morning off Mogadishu. No damage was caused.

South Atlantic

AJAX with convoy A.P. 2. left Durban this evening.

Mediterranean

3rd C.S. with 4 destroyers left Alexandria a.m. today and proceeded westward of Crete to give A.A. support to convoy A.N. 3. during daylight to-morrow.
The force is then to carry out a sweep to the Dardanelles and Gulf of Salonika and back by Gulf of Athens and Cyclades and westward of Crete to Alexandria.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.9.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Re C. in C., W.A., 1919/19/8 and my 1946/22/8 it is particularly desirable that two A/S vessels should be attached to Tyne for protection of shipping. Due to the restrictions on the time of arrival in the South of F.S. Convoy, ships have to leave Tyne at 0200. On dark nights pilots will not move ships down the river at this time and consequently several ships have to lie outside the harbour for some hours exposed to possible submarine attack. (C. in C., Rosyth 1115/13 to Admty.)

Defence of U.K.

War Channel

Admiralty message 1864ZX area one, points A and B. It appears that war channel has now been closed to heavy ships. Request confirmation that mines have not been laid in the channel. (C. in C., H.F. 1217/13 to Adty.)

Anti-Invasion Precautions

The enemy now has a vast concentration of ships and barges in the Channel which may sail simultaneously from 10 or 12 ports between Hamburg and Cherbourg. He may intend to send out numerous convoys of which some would be merely decoys containing ~~c~~lumns of empty vessels. Attack by our light forces against transports will need to be pressed home in face of heavy dive bombing attacks and the danger of expending our limited resources of ships and torpedoes against a feint ~~xxx~~ attack by empty transport craft requires very careful consideration. It will not be easy to distinguish feint attacks which might even carry dummy troops or tanks, but towed dumb barges may well be decoys. Loaded transports on the other hand are likely to have guns mounted and to be escorted by E-Boats, torpedo boats or other warships as well as by aircraft. It is therefore requested that all ships and aircraft in a position to take action may be impressed with the importance of making every effort to distinguish between troop carrying vessels and others that might be empty. In both cases immediate reports will be of great importance. (C. in C., Nore., 1644/13 to Adty.)

/It is.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.9.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K. Contd.

It is likely that at the time of invasion Germans will be landed in British battle dress mainly by air but possibly also by sea. They may possess AB 64 and other identity certificates. They will attempt to enter vital areas or pass through blocks which they will then attack in rear. Cases were known in Holland where such parties fell in in rear of marching Dutch columns. Leaders of enemy parties and some others are likely to speak perfect English. All Headquarters and units will therefore ensure that methods of identification are at all times strictly enforced and that sentries challenge on the assumption that the idividual approaching their post is hostile until proved otherwise. All informed. (Hofor, London, 1418/13 to Antacor)

Following are my operational intentions. Governing factors are:-
1. A destroyer force must at night be in position to proceed rapidly to Dover area.
2. The presence of five enemy destroyers at Cherbourg.
3. Our submarines are now on patrol off the opposite coast.
4. Hunt and S Class are frequently on convoy work. By night intend four destroyers to be on patrol in eastern sector of Portsmouth Command and remaining destroyers and all other available ships at immediate notice at Spithead or in Southampton water.

By day all ships will be inside defences two destroyers being at immediate notice, remaining ships at 2 and a half hours notice, but number at immediate notice will be increased if visibility decreases. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1913/13 to Afty.)

Owing to difficulty of obtaining information by surface forces of enemy's movements by day in the Western Channel, I consider it most desirable that air reconnaissance in this area should be maintained during daylight whenever possible.
2. I also consider that a submarine patrol should be maintained off Brest (C. in C., W.A., 1927/13 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.9.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.-Contd.

Notice For Steam

In view of weather conditions Flag Officers may place a proportion of their destroyers and light craft at 2 hours notice for steam during dark hours. (V.C.N.S. 2156/13 to V.A.Dover and Cs. in C.,)

Transfer of A/S Trawlers

Following numbers of A/S trawlers and, or yachts fitted with 4" guns are to be transferred forthwith for Anti-invasion duties. Reduction in local defence and escorts must be accepted.
From A.C.O.S. to Nore 10.
From Rosyth to Nore 4
From Portsmouth to Nore 6.
C. in C., Western Approaches to fleet his vessels round coast so as to transfer 20 to Portsmouth and concentrate 20 in Plymouth area in shortest possible time. (V.C.N.S. 2358/13)

Faroe Islands Communications

Reference previous communications. Urgently request you examine position regarding facilities to Faroe Is. BARANDA now only ship in service. Reports here suggest BARANDA outward journey again delayed and large amount of military stores and civilians again shut out by lack of space. Late arrival of stores causing great inconvenience and discomfort. Especially Nissen Huts and others urgently required in view of expected reinforcements and on account of notoriously bad weather. Consider essential another vessel be provided for immediate transport of accumulated stores. Naval Officer in charge in full agreement. (O.C. Troops, Faroe Islands 1240/13 to War Office)

Barges at Antwerp

Swedish ship's Officer returning from Antwerp reports 2200 large type Rhine Motor Barges with hinged platforms forward to enable vehicles to proceed from hold of barge to beach. Portable machine guns can be mounted forward. Above graded D two. Officer adds that German N.C.O. stated that landing expected to take place North Sea and channel coast simultaneously with garrison bombing as preparation. (N.A.Stockholm, 2323/13 to D.N.I.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.9. 1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

Patrols U and O.	To be maintained till further notice. (C. in C., Nore 0529/13 to JAVELIN, INTREPID) Patrol U return to harbour at 0900 (C. in C., Nore 1729/13 to JAVELIN) 16th and 21st D.F. to carry out patrol O with 3 ships on alternate nights. (C. in C., Nore 1040/13) Patrol U for Night 13/14 (F.O. Number 1625/13)
Nore Command	Dispositions for night 13/14 (C. in C., Nore 0800/13) Day Patrols and movements to noon/14th (C. in C., Nore 1200/13)
SCIMITAR SKATE	Sailed from Londonderry as by C. in C., W.A. 0303/13. Expect arrive Greenock 1300. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 0826/13 to N.O.I.C., Greenock)
A.P. Patrols	For 13/9. (F.O.I.C., Harwich 0905/13)
REVENGE SHEFFIELD EMERALD	Are placed under command of C. in C., W.A., (C.N.S. 1213/13) Admty. 0102/13. A.C.W.A. 0303/13. Intend sailing REVENGE at 0200/14 Speed 17 knots. Request lights. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 1215/13 to C. in C., W.A.) EMERALD is to be sailed for Plymouth with REVENGE (C. in C., W.A., 1919/13 to F.O.I.C., Greenock)
Dover	Patrols for night 13/14 (V.A.Dover, 1454/13)
Norther Patrol Trawler Line	Positions for 13/9. (A.C.O.S. 1536/13)
HAVELOCK HESPERUS BULLDOG BEAGLE	To pass gate at 1930, carry out patrol J.C. East, and return Portsmouth passing Nab Tower at 0600/14. (C. in C Portsmouth 1637/13 to D. 9.)
Orkneys	State of A/S Trawlers (A.C.O.S., 1930/13)
ERREBUS	Your 1224/12. Date of sailing controll ed by weather and progress, but unlikely to be in less than a week. (C. in C., H.F., 2243/13 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.9.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Attack on Trawler off Boulogne. (C. in C., Nore, 1750/12)

At 0115 to 0135/13 by MALCOLM, WILD SWAN, VENOMOUS. Report by D. 16. (C. in C., Nore, 1454/13 to Adty.)

Operation in Ostend Roads

CAMPBELL, GARTH, VESPER to operate tonight against Shipping and Barges in Ostend Road. (C. in C., Nore, 1730/13 to D. 21.) Operation cancelled (C. in C., Nore 1901/13 to D. 21)

Iceland

Sailed CHITRAL and ULSTER MONARCH escorted by ANTELOPE and AMAZON as by my 2111/12. Expect arrive 1800/16. (F.O.I.C., Greenock 1712/13 to Adty.)

CALIFORNIA's position at 2200/13 will be 63° 46' N., 22° 51' W., steering 160° at 13½ knots. Icebergs noted. (N.O.I.C., Iceland 1940/13 to CIRCASSIA)

Submarines

L. 27

My 1733/12. L. 27 sailed (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1103/13)

Adty 1532/8/9. & 1833/7/7

S/M L 23 will be exercising in Area B a.m. and p.m/14. (A.C.O.S. 1553/13 to Adty) S/M operations outside Area A Nil (C. in C., W.A. 1555/13 to Adty.) Greenock area movements (F.O.I.C., Greenock 1741/13 to Adty) Portsmouth Area. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1800/13 to Adty.)

Positions

For following 24 hours at 0700/14 in Area A and B (V.A.S. 1639/13)

H. 43

C. in C., Portsmouth's 1733/12. Intend sail H. 43 from Portsmouth at 1930/13 to Area W. 2 on surface unescorted and return Portsmouth a.m./20 (S. 5. 1701/13 to Adty.)

E-Boats

A/C reports 2 E-Boats at 1554/13 in 50° 43' N., 1° 35' E., (C. in C., Nore, 1705/13 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.9.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

During Night 12/13, 26 Wellingtons attacked petrol stores at Emden, seaplane base at Nordeney, shipping at Delfzijl, and the docks at Flushing where large fires and heavy explosions were seen. (H.Q.B.C., 1629/13)

Zeebrugge
Calais

Between 1350 and 1606/13 A/C attacked a convoy of 6 or 7 vessels believed to be Tankers off the end of Zeebrugge Mole. One vessel set on fire. Calais Harbour, and a concentration of Barges at Ijsselmond, East of Rotterdam, were also attacked. (H.Q.B.C 0215/14)

Bergen

Propose sending 9 Skuas at 1400 to attack oil installation at Bergen. (Hatston 1154/13 to A.C.O.S) Approved (A.C.O.S. 1319/13 to Hatston) 9 Skuas left 1435 (Hatston 1452/13 to A.C.O.S.) Attacks on Tanks dispersed results not known. One M.V. 3000 tons damaged and set on fire. 2 aircraft missing (Hatston 2015/13 to A.C.O.S.)

Operation M.T.

Request 2 Swordfish be available at Detling by 16/9 fitted with multi-flare carriers. Also aircraft of C.A.C.U. Hawkinge will be required to spot for Dover Gun. (H.Q.C.C. 1455/13 to 16 Group)

Air Searches
from Stornoway

Following have been instituted. Details (A.C.O.S., 1625/13 to Adty.)

BISMARCK

You are to arrange special attacks on BISMARCK at Hamburg on night 14/15 or first favourable night after. Effort to be of order of 20 to 25 Sorties. (Air Ministry 1801/13 to Bomber Command)

Rosyth

Adty. concur in move of one 8-Gun Fighter Squadron from Wick to Rosyth Area at your discretion. (Air Ministry 1805/13 to Fighter Command)

Proposed Free
Bombing Areas in
Channel and
Bay of Biscay

Ops. 664/13/9. Suggested limits of Areas. (N.L.O. H.Q.C.C., 1850/13 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.9.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity

Belfast Lough

Shipping at entrance to Belfast Lough was attacked by single enemy 4 engined aircraft believed Condor about 0700 today. Aircraft subsequently dropped bombs on Bangor County Down. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1042/13 to Adty.)

Attack on Convoy C.W. 11 on 11/9.

Preliminary report from ATHERSTONE shows that 21 bombers with 30 escort fighters arrived over convoy. Of these -9 dive bombers, JU 88, and 10 fighters M.E. 110, detached and made a concerted attack which had evidently been carefully arranged.
Fighters attacked with machine guns while bombers came down in 3 threes, one right ahead and one on each bow bearing about red and green 30 degrees.
ATHERSTONE firing all guns felt that the avoidance of hits was practically impossible.
Result:- 5 near misses 2 bombs on Bridge and one larger bomb at break of Forecastle which penetrated below and completely wrecked 2 boilers.
ATHERSTONE was towed home disabled.
It is repetition of these experiences that has caused me to reiterate the importance of fighter support for our cruisers and destroyers when repelling invasion by daylight.
If we had a strong force of aircraft that could deal similarly with enemy warships the situation would be very much more satisfactory. (C. in C., Nore 1136/13 to Adty.)

GLENROY

Hit by incendiary bomb lst night. Very slight damage (F.O.I.C., Liverpool 1320/13 to Adty.)

Disguised Enemy A/C

At 1436 today what appeared to be a Blenheim Long Nosed Bomber flying low in a southerly direction dropped two bombs in Dover Harbour which fell between Prince of Wales Pier and Ferry Dock. AA Guns sights report Aircraft appeared to be carrying British Roundels on fuselage and was certainly painted green and brown camouflage. (V.A.Dover 1608/13 to Adty.)

Chatham

Five H.E.Bombs dropped in Dockyard about noon today. Details of damage (Supt. C.E. Chatham 1835/13)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.9.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Amble	Port is open. (F.O.I.C., Tyne 0942/13)
North Shields	One red magnetic mine detonated at 0910/13 at 113° North Pier Light 4½ cables (P.M.3.O. North Shields 0955/13 to F.O.I.C. Tyne) Between midnight and 0900, 13 ships have left Tyne and 16 have entered, which speaks well for degaussing. (F.O.I.C., Tyne 1024/13 to C. in C., Rosyth)
ESK IVANHOE	Inquiry as to cause and circumstances of loss. F.O.I.C. Humber's reasons for proposing that an enquiry be held. (C. in C., Nore, 1019/12 and 1118/13 to Adty.)
Portsmouth	One magnetic mine self exploded at 1115/13 in 50° 40' 15" N., 1° 36' 20" W Polarity unknown. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1127/13 to Adty.)
Liverpool	Port now open. (F.O.I.C. 1230/13)
Scapa	Drifting Mine, believed British, sunk by gunfire from Ness Battery at 0900/13 in Hoy Sound. (A.C.O.S., 1250/13 to Adty.)
CADET TWO	A. 483/13/9 Minsweepers will be operating as yesterday from 0530 to 1400/14. provide usual protection. (H.Q.F.C.1805/13)
Kirkwall	My 2130/11. Mine near Breckness recovered and returned to Lyness. British Antenna type. (N.O.I.C., Kirkwall 1912/12 and 2145/13 to A.C.O.S)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.9.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

M/V's	At Bremerhaven, Kaiserhaven, Nordenhaven and Heligoland during night 11/12. At 0019/13 in 53° 41' N., 5° 30' E., a convoy of 14 M/V's each about 500 tons led by 2 small M/B's steering N.W. (H.Q.B.C., 0400/13) M/V's observed at Emden, Knocke, Ostend and off Dutch Coast during Night 12/13 (H.Q.B.C. 1628/13)
ALGERIE Type Cruiser	At 1440/13 in 50° 57' N., 1° 45' E., one Heavy cruiser of ALGERIE type, 10,000 tons heading North. (H.Q.B.C. 0215/14) (C. in C., Nore 1703/13 to INTREPID)
Skaggerak	SNAPPER reports surface Patrol and Air activity infrequent in Skaggerak and Fishing Vessels working South of Area C. 3. (V.A.S. 1031/13 to Adty)
Danish Smacks	At 0846/13 in 55° 42' N., 5° 20' E., five Danish Smacks, fishing, one with W/T aerial (A.C.H.Q., Donibristle 1200/13)
Transport Barges	Aircraft reports 10 Transport Barges, 2 E-Boats, 1 unknown in50° 43' N., 1° 35' E., Steering south at 5 knots at 1554/13 (C. in C., Nore, 1705/13 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.9.1940.
Friday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

G/R/C.

Norwegian (4211 tons) homeward bound with wheat. 20 survivors picked up. Presumed sunk. No details at present available. (D.S. 374)

TINTERN ABBEY

My 1800/12. Tug AMSTERDAM now proceeding to Douglas, Isle of Man with SS TINTERN ABBEY. Expect arrive 0600 (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0540/13 to C. in C. W.A.)

PROTESILAUS (Block-Ship for Scapa)

EMPIRE KENCHMAN and ABEILLE 21, towing PROTESILAUS, report both tow ropes parted at 0830/13 7 miles S.W. of Skerryvore. A/S Trawlers KING SOL and ELLESMERE are escorting. Proceed with despatch to assist. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1041/13 to Tug SUPERMAN)
Crew forced to abandon owing to bulkheads leaking badly. Have sunk by gunfire at 295° Skerryvore Light 4.9 miles. Am returning to Belfast with crew. (KING SOL 1659/13 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

JENSHVAS

Salvage Auxiliary Patrol vessel, badly ashore at Holy Island. Floated this p.m. by Adty Trawler and Motor-Boat. (Smith JENSHVAS, West Hartlepool 1557/13 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.9.1940.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping
OA 215	H.M.S. HOUDKAPP tomescort to Cape Wrath. Thence independently to Iceland. (C. in C., Rosyth 1253/13)
L.F.C.l.	To alter course at 2100/13 for 3 hours (C. in C., W.A., 1500/13)
S.N. 42.	Your 2152/10. No escort is available at present. (C. in C., H.F. 1151/13)
F.N. & F.S.	New Timetable. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1700/13)
O.L. 2.	Propose sailing 18/9. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1039/13)
O.A. 213	Sailed from Methil 0930/13 close escort FLEETWOOD, BLUEBELL, ST LAURENT. (C. in C., Rosyth 1541/12)
O.A. 214.	Position and route (N.C.S.O. Methil 1227/13)
S.C. 3.	Meet. (C. in C., W.A., to WANDERER etc., 1013/13)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.9.1940.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operation "Menace"

Situation Report West Africa No 12 (D.N.I. 2109/13)

DEVONSHIRE Convoy M.P. — Orders for entering Freetown. (C. in C. S.A., 1305/13 to S.O.Force M.)

CUMBERLAND — Admty 0015/12. Consider CUMBERLAND essential but will sail direct to Clyde when situation permits. (F.O., Force M 1017/13 to Admty)

ARK ROYAL — Following are present intentions regarding ARK ROYAL, but must depend on circumstances at the time.
Return to Liverpool after Operation Menace for docking and short refit.
Re-equip 800 Squadron with Fulmars at Donibristle. Relieve 803 Squadron by 808 Squadron, (Fulmars) ARK ROYAL then to rejoin Force H. (D.O.D. F. 1610/13 to S.O. Force H.)

North Atlantic

French Naval Moves — Following received from Jacques tonight emanates from Navy Office at Casablanca. 3 French cruisers GEORGE LEYGUES type and 3 destroyers TERRIBLE type arrived Casablanca from Toulon 11/9 at 1600. Will only stay for a short time and then proceed Dakar and Duala. At Dakar will probably embark troops to tackle the situation in Duala. Object of the cruis is (a) to preserve Dakar for Vichy (b) to try to combat de Gaulle's move in Equatorial Africa. (Dualeh Primauguet is already in Dakar) Several large cruisers and destroyers are possibly STRASBOURG were to have left Toulon on 11/9 for the Atlantic for unknown destination believed Dakar but at last moment order was cancelled. (Consul-Gen., Tangier 0100/13) Repeated to C. in C., S.A., F.O's Force H., and M. (D.N.I., 1049/13)

At 0405 passed 3 darkened French destroyers FANTASQUE class, 31.25 N., 11 30 W., steering north, 20 to 25 knots. (S.O., Force H., 0425/13)

/My 1109/12....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.9.1940.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic-Contd.

My 1109/12. Weather still prevents oiling destroyers. (11) After 2030/13/9 probability of interception of French -Force with units remaining will be much reduced. (111) To ensure interception consider patrol should be established off Dakar observing that Air report of type of ships in Casablanca is not conclusive. (1V) If Force 'H' encounters French fuel situation in destroyers may limit their participation in chase and possible action to very short period.
(S.O. Force H., 1001/13)

Your 1122/13. 200 Group will do their utmost to supply as detailed information as possible. Photographs show a good number of ships in harbour. Following is list of vessels which we consider can be identified. JEAN BART, JULES VERNE, 9 destroyers of which 4 have 2 funnels and remainder 3 or 4 funnels. 5 large and 4 small submarines 3 escort ships and 4 other vessels which may be escort ships or large submarines.
It is possible that 3 cruisers may be among a group of large ships difficult to identify.
Am taking all possible steps to obtain information from other sources. You will be kept informed.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1432/13 to S.O. Force H.)

Air report 1530/13 (a) no cruiser in Casablanca.
(b) One French destroyer in position 035° 38' N., 007° 55' W., 045° 18 knots
(c) Two French submarines patrolling 15 miles off Casablanca.
Destroyer in (b) now entering harbour.
(F.O.C., N.A. 1606/13)

Aircraft now reports no cruisers Casablanca, RENOWN can (a) arrive Gibraltar with three destroyers, refuel and be ready for sea 1500/14. (b) Arrive Freetown with two destroyers 1200/19 (c) Arrive Freetown unescorted 1000/16. Intend continuing present northerly sweep until 2000/13 and then as at (a) above. (S.O. Force (H) 1643/13)

/Steer.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.9.1940.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic-Contd.

Steer towards Dakar at 18 knots. Keep Destroyers with you. Further instructions follow. (1st. S.L. 1916/13 to V.A.(H)

Aircraft report 1745. One light cruiser or destroyer leader not GEORGES LEYGUES class and 2 destroyers are now in Casablanca in addition to these reported in my 1432. Further report will be made. It is not now considered that GEORGES LEYGUES, GLOIRE and MONTCALM are at Casablanca. (F.O.C.N.A., 2202/13)

Cancel my 1916/13. Act in accordance with A for apples of your 1643/13. (1st S.L. 2335/13 to F.O. (H))

My 2202. No repetition no cruiser of French GEORGE LEYGUES class can be identified in air photographs taken p.m. today Friday. (F.O.C.N.A., 2338/13 to S.O. (H)

Following from C.G. Tangier. Probable these French cruisers are still at Casablanca. When they leave that port they will proceed to Dakar. But French Naval Authorities do not know their own mind at present and future movements of ships cannot therefore be guaranteed. T.O.O. 2005/13 "Ends. (F.O.C.N.A. 2354/13 to S.O. Force (H))

Treatment of Neutral Submarines

Your 2033/28/8. In view of operation of Force "H" now in progress off the French Africa Coast with co-operation of aircraft from Gibraltar. Request rules in accordance with para five may be promulgated as soon as possible. (F.O.C.N.A., 1644/13)

ISLA DE TENERIFFE

My 1419/10 Consul San Sebastian states ISLA DE TENERIFFE sailed late 11/9 for Santander Vigo Cadiz Canary Islands. States German guns concealed in hold. according to reliable source this is purely imaginative. In my opinion if guns are on board they date from civil war. (N.A., Madrid, 1117/13)

/GRAF SPEE.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.9.1940.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic-Contd.

GRAF SPEE Officers in MOTOMAR	Believe that 15 escaped officers ex ADMIRAL GRAF SPEE on board Spanish MOTOMAR left Buenos Aires about 26/8 bound for Tangier. (F.O.C.N.A., 0950/13 1218/13 to S.O.Force H)
R.A.F. in France	65 British Subjects in France, probably most of them R.A.F. There are a further 500 British Troops and about 3000 Polish troops. If ship could be sent to Lisbon in time to catch H.G. 45 I could probably get away 150 including the 65 British. Can this be arranged. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1224/13 to Adty.)

South Atlantic

CUMBERLAND	In view of C. in C., S.A.'s 2031/12. CUMBERLAND is to proceed U.K. (C.N.S. to C. in C., S.A., 1029/13)
ARGUS	Concur ARGUS should sail with A.M.C. now escorting A.S. 3. (D.C.D. (F) to C. in C., S.A., 1415/13)
CAP DE PALMES	N.C.S.O. Duala 2311/12. Consider speed of CAP DE PALMES not worse than 16 or 17 knots (C. in C., S.A., 1534/13 Your 1534/13. CAP DE PALMES should not be intercepted. Issue necessary instructions. (A.C.N.S., (F) 2155/13 to C. in C., S.A.)
Middle East Evacuations	Re accommodation for familes etc., (Dominions Office to High Commr., Union of South Africa, 1430/13)
A.F. 3. CARNARVON CASTLE CANTON	Your 2031/12 and my 1029/13 concur that CARNARVON CASTLE should be made available for A.F. 3. and that return of CANTON to reinforce CARNARVON CASTLE if required should be arranged. (D.C.D.(F) 1622/13 to C.S.A)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

13.9.1940.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Relations with French	My 1827/7/7. (considering) re Adty. 1429/11 should this or similar incident lead to a declaration of war it would be very important for me to have very earliest possible information as this would invalidate the agreement and I should require at once to rush the French Ships to prevent scuttling. (C. in C., Med. 1055/13 to Adty.)
Orders to PANDORA	You are to be in approx. 360° Tolmeita Light 30 by sunset 16/9. Subject to freedom from enemy interference at 2030/16, and show bright light upward for guidence of aircraft until 2130. Light is to be screened from surface visibility but should show as widely as possible skywards. Return to patrol area on completion. All times zone minus 3. (Capt. (S) 1 2031/31)
French Merchant Shipping	Reference Adty. 1350/12. Request confirmation that position elsewhere in Mediterranean regarding French merchant shipping remains as follows:- (a) No sailing of French ships allowed from any British ports. (reference 1923/23/6. (b) Any French ships met at sea are to be sent in for Contraband Control in accordance with Admty. 1813/26/7. (c) No French ships to be allowed to sail to any port in France (C. in C., S.A. 0731/19/7) (C. in C., Med. 1515/13 to Adty.)
Bosporus Boom	Offer made by Adty to lay it was not accepted by Turkish Govt. in view of terms of Montreux Convention Under convention British Naval vessels cannot operate in Dardanelles area, Adty unable to assist but equipment is being shipped as it becomes available. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1819/13 to N.A. Angora)
War Plans	Re working out (1st S.L. 2233/13 to C in C., Med., C. in C., E.I.)
Supplies	Rates of consumption proposed must be reduced to minimum commitment to Eastern Medtn. Fleet so heavy as would seriously prejudice its operational capabilities (W.O. to Gov. Malta 0700/13)

MOST SECRET.

13.9.40.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

ATLAS armed guard.	My 0520/9. Armed guard located and embarked by KINGSTON. (C.in-C., E.I. 0544Z/13). See U-boat campaign.
Air attacks on CERES.	0645/13, 0724/13, 0838/13, all G.M.T. in 1° 30' N. 45° 20' E. approx. No damage (C.-in-C., E.I. 1058/13).
Orders to ARAWA	ARAWA proceed now at 13 Kts. to 24° S. 60° E. (C.-in-C., E.I. 1926Z/13).
Troop convoys and Escorts. Plans.	Arrangements (C.-in-C., E.I. 1304/13, 2148Z/13). For Naval interference with Italian preparation and plans for attack on Suvan (C.-in-C., E.I. 1444Z/13).
Blockade Running Somaliland.	Kenya Authorities concerned about illicit export of supplies by Dhows from British East Africa to Italian Somaliland. Authorities consider that traffic cannot be stopped without sea and river patrol. Kenya Govt. consider prevention of such traffic an imperial Naval responsibility but I do not agree. They offer to man any craft supplied. I consider this traffic must be stopped and suggest Admiralty should provide necessary craft, the Kenya and Tanganyika Govts. providing crews and sharing cost of running and maintaining them. Without prejudice to decision on incidence of cost, early approval is requested to obtain two, 14 Kt. tug whalers fitting out at Capetown and up to four small motor boats. (C.-in-C., E.I. 1834Z/13 to Admty.)
French Shipping.	Following plain language message (translated) received for French Consul Colombo from Min. for For. Aff Vichy begins "the law of 24/8 forbids all mercantile officers or seamen to serve on board French ships placed under the control of a foreign

belligerent/

War Diary. MOST SECRET.

13.9.40.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

French Shipping. belligerent power. Make known immediately Officers and crews (corrupt group) call at ports in your area than in transgressing this inderdiction incurs penalty. I have advised Colombo (? Censor) to stop this message.
(C.-in-C., E.I.1108Z/13 corrected 0738Z/14).

China.

Pass to L.O. Saigon Your 0353/8 You are authorised to reply to Governor Indo China that subject to cantrabond control at Aden on voyage to Jibuti, passage of two vessels with troops from Jibuti to Saigon will not be impeded. Ascertain details (A.C.N.S. (F) 2050/13 to C. in C., China)

America & West Indies

U.S.Destroyers Your 1132/3. Adty, concur in arrangements for proposed manning pool. (Hd of P.M. 1828/23) Re date of delivery of 5th Group (R.A. B.S. 1752/13. N.A., Washington 1305/14)

DESPATCH DUNEDIN Your 1819/11, my 1652/11 Request destinations (C. in C., A.W.I. 1912/13 to Adty.)

French Mercantile Personnel Your 1042/12 (The despatch of French Volunteers) There are no further requirements for French mercantile personnel in Canada (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa 1302/13 to C. in C., A.W.I.)

Suspicious Ship My 1632/2, Correction G.A.Z.A. called LUSO not AMARANTE. AMARANTE called G.A.Z.A. (S.O. (1) Kingston 1612/13)

War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

13.9.40.
Friday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

SALZBURG	Arrived Galtaz 11/9 from Poti with manganese ore for Germany (D.S.374)
WESER	Reported likely to sail from Manzanillo as soon as she has received 600 drums of lubricating oil reported to be en route over land. (D.S.374).
LARISSA	Arrived from Poti with 2,900 tons manganese ore German. (Galatz 1454/13).
NORBURG	Left in ballast, Russia. (Galatz 1454/13).

War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

13.9.40.
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships attacked.

CLINTONIA

Attacked by U.56
2/9.

S.S. CLINTONIA, on arrival Sydney, Nova Scotia, reports attacked by U.56 1605 G.M.T. in 056° 30' N. 014° 50'. U.56 probably damaged by collision and possible hit on super structure by gunfire.

(N.S.H.Q.Ottawa 1607/13).

LUIMNEACH
sunk 4/9.

Nine survivors Irish Free State (LUIMNEACH) landed Pasajes 13/9. Report ship sunk by gunfire from small submarine which master believes to have been Italian, on 4/9 at 1830 G.M.T. position 047° 50' N. 009° 12' W. Survivors include Master, Second Officer, Chief Engineer, and 6 others. Another boat containing remaining 9 members of crew lost sight of.

S/ms. Reported.

0050

Suspect S/m submerged Northward of 20 G. buoy at 0050. (C.-in-C., Rosyth, 0256/13).

0846

A/c report S/m on surface 59.04 N. 00.23 E. on N.E. course. S/m dived before attack could be made. Sunderland being despatched to patrol vicinity. (C.-in-C., Rosyth, 1024/13).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italian - 2 between Azores and Portugal.

German - 1 about 180' WSW of Fastnet at 2208/12, may possibly reach Lorient tomorrow night.

2 in N.W. Approaches of which 1 is probably to the Northward of Rockall. No news of the other.

1 N.W. of Hebrides outward bound.

At least 1 far out in Atlantic.

(D.D.I.C. 1240/13).

War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

13.9.40.
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Mediterranean & East Indies.

Ships Attacked.

ATLAS
(sunk 6/9).

My 0520/9. Armed guard located and embarked by KINGSTON. ATLAS definitely torpedoed by U-boat without warning. 4 torpedoes fired one hit one ran on surface finally submerged and exploded, another possibly exploded at end of run. No evasive action. 2 Greek flags painted on ship's side. STAR OF CAIRO arrived Suez 12th. Greek POLYKTOR not yet arrived.

(C.-in-C., E.I. 0544Z/13).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.9.1940.
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Home Fleet

C. in C., Home Fleet in NELSON, with HOOD, NAIAD and BONAVENTURE and screened by 6 destroyers has arrived at Rosyth from Scapa.

Destroyer Operation Cancelled

An attack by CAMPBELL, GARTH and VESPER last night against shipping and barges in Ostend Roads was cancelled on account of the weather.

REVENGE
EMERALD
SHEFFIELD

REVENGE and EMERALD left the Clyde early this morning for Plymouth, with MACKAY, WESTCOTT, SCIMITAR and SKATE. REVENGE, SHEFFIELD and EMERALD are to come under the command of C. in C., W.A.

British Air Operations

Attacks on enemy invasion bases continued last night, against Calais Docks and Dunkirk and Ostend harbours bombs employed included long-delay bombs. Observation of results of an attack on Antwerp was very difficult. Direct hits were obtained on barges at Boulogne and Ostend.

Aircraft despatched during the day to reconnoitre ports between Dunkirk and the Hague abandoned the task owing to unsuitable weather conditions.

Enemy Air Activity

Coast reconnaissances today were more numerous than of late.

Bombs fell in the docks area at Cardiff during an attack last night and some damage was done to civilian industrial establishments.

Bombs were dropped off the harbour entrance at Lowestoft this afternoon without causing any damage.

/ Bombs.....

MOST SECRET

14.9.1940.
Saturday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

Bombs were dropped at Yarmouth and a time bomb, which exploded at 0030/15 caused slight damage to the R.N. Barracks.

Some damage was caused to the R.N. Torpedo Depot at Chatham.

Mining

5 Swordfish of Coastal Command last night successfully laid mines at Le Havre without encountering opposition.

French Naval Force

In the absence of information as to when the French cruisers left Casablanca the Admiralty have ordered a patrol to be established by Force M and all ships on the South Atlantic Station, to prevent the French from reaching Dakar. ARK ROYAL's aircraft are if possible to locate the French in daylight and inform them that they cannot be allowed to proceed to Dakar, which is under German influence, but that they may return to Casablanca and that force will if necessary be used. The ships may fuel at Bathurst if they are short. CUMBERLAND is to shadow them until they reach Casablanca; her orders to return to the U.K. are cancelled.

At 0400 today ARK ROYAL, RESOLUTION and BARHAM were about 300 miles from Dakar with DEVONSHIRE and AUSTRALIA about 150 miles to northwestward of them. ARK ROYAL shortly afterwards proceeded ahead of the battleships at 25 knots; the destroyers had proceeded into harbour to fuel. 6 of the destroyers left Freetown at 1350 to R.V. with ARK ROYAL At 1215 RESOLUTION and BARHAM and French Sloops COMMANDANT DOMINE and COMMANDANT DUBOC arrived at Freetown.

CORNWALL proceeded at best speed for Freetown.

/CARNARVON CASTLE...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.9.1940.
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

French Naval Force-Contd

CARNARVON CASTLE has been placed under the orders of S.O. Force H. She has been ordered to patrol between positions S.W. of Dakar and S.E. of Ascension to cover shipping on the Cape-Sierra Leone trade route, a raider being reported 300 miles S.W. of St. Helena at 1300 today.

S.O.Force H had not been able to confirm or disprove the presence at Casablanca of the three French cruisers of GEORGES LEYGUES class

The aircraft sent on reconnaissance this afternoon was shot down by French fighters for "flying over forbidden zone"

South Atlantic

DELHI has been ordered to patrol to intercept French merchant ships passing between French West Africa ports and ports north of Sierra Leone or between any area controlled by Vichy and Free French Ports. Such ships, unless under Free French control are to be sent in to Tokpradi.

Mediterranean

C. in C., Medtn. reports that on 31/8 PARTHIAN attacked a cruiser of ZARA class between Sicily and Greece and considered she scored 2 hits and sank the enemy ship.

There was a air raid on Malta late this evening but night fighters and searchlights compelled the enemy to drop their bombs in the sea.

East Indies

Blenheims attacked Assab today. Results were not observed.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.9.1940
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Clyde — Proposals for co-ordinating various Authorities under F.O.I.C. Greenock to control increasing number of M/Vs lying in Clyde Anchorage. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1705/12 Recd. 1325/14 to Adty)

SHEFFIELD — Your 1213/13. Is SHEFFIELD TO revert to my administration. If so, request all concerned be informed. (C.S. 18. 2020/14 to Adty.)

Defence of U.K.

Ammunition Outfits — All auxiliary war vessels and A.P. vessels on South and East Coasts between Plymouth and Tyne mounting 12 pdr. H.A./L.A. Guns are to have their ammunition outfits increased. (V.C.N.S., 0003/14)

All Trawlers auxiliary vessels and A.P. vessels on South and East Coast mounting 4 inch 6 pdr., 3 pdr. and Hotchkiss guns are to have their ammunition outfits increased. (D.T.S.D., 1941/14)

War Channel — Your 1217/13. In September 1939 deep mines were laid in War Channel and it was skimmed to depth of 35 feet. No mines have been laid in the Channel subsequently. An amendment to 186 QRX is being made. (D.M.S. 1815/14 to C. in C., H.F.)

Ships at Immediate Notice — My 2156/13. Ships are to be at immediate notice to-night 14th Sept. (V.C.N.S. 1818/14 to Cs. in C., and V.A. Dover.)

Portsmouth. Reserves of Ammunition — Your 1923/13 approved (D.T.S.D. 1908/14 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

/Scapa.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.9.1940.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Defenceof U.K. Contd.

Scapa., Fighter Protection

Number three fighter squadron of Hurricanes left Wick this morning and the only fighter protection left for Scapa now consists of 804 Squadron Gladiators at Hatston and 808 Sqdn Fulmers at Castletown.
Request I may be informed whether there is any prospect of their being replaced at an early date. Unless other Hurricanes are coming within the next few days it is requested that the eight Hurricanes at Sumburgh should be flown to Castletown forthwith and operate from there. (A.C.O.S. 1942/14 to Adty.)

Invasion Precautions

War Office's 1418/13 (See Defence of U.K. 13/9) repeated. Request necessary instructions may be issued (D. of L.D. 2050/14 to All Cs. in C)

Movements

REVENGE

Sailed REVENGE, EMERALD, MACKAY, WESTCOTT, SCIMITAR, and SKATE as by my 1215/13 and Adty's. 1919/13 (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0239/14 to Adty.)
Request Fighter protection Dawn to 0800/15 (C. in C., W.A., 1814/14 to H.Q.F.C.) (C. in C., W.A., 1933 14 to H.Q.F.C.)

Transfer of A/S Trawlers

Adty. 2358/13. Sailed following 4 A/S Trawlers at 0700/14 Expect to sail following 5 more at 1300/14. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 0705/14 and 1156/14 to C. in C., Portsmouth)
3 A/S Trawlers joining you at Aldeburgh as additional Escort till F.S. is met (C. in C., Nore 1349/14 to WOOLSTON) Intend sail following Trawlers to Dover for onward routeing to Harwich. Expect arrive Dover 0700 (C. in C., Portsmouth 1643/14 to C. in C., Nore) Report estimated time of arrival at new destinations. (D.A/S W., 1938/14 to A.C.O.S. Cs. in C., Rosyth, Portsmouth and W.A.)
Intend to base A/S Trawlers and Yachts at Dover, Humber Harwich and Yarmouth as follows (C. in C., Nore., 2050/14)

/Nore Command.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.9.1940.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements-Contd.

Nore Command	Day Patrols and Movements to 1200/15. (C. in C., Nore 1200/14)
PRETORIA CASTLE	Your 1755/12. Do destroyer escort available for PRETORIA CASTLE (C. in C., W.A., 1201/14 to N.C.I.C. Belfast) My 1027/4 and 1755/12. Sailing postponed 24 hours. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1237/14 to Adty.)
NorthernPatrol	Trawler lines occupied to-day. (F.O.C.O.S. 1536/14)
CROCUS JONQUIL CANDYTUFT	When ready for sea should be sailed for Tobermory to work up, after which to join W.A. Escort Force. (D.O.D. H. 1521/14 to A.S.C.B.S.)
WOLVERINE VOLUNTEER VANOC BERKELEY	Patrol Eastward tonight. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1633/14 to Adty.) Request Fighter protection 1930 till dark 14/9. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1545/14 to H.Q.F.C.)
CALIFORNIA ANTELOPE AMAZON	Expect reach 57° N., 9° 46' W., at 1930/15. Course 130° Speed 13½ knots. (CALIFORNIA 1725/14 to C. in C., W.A.)
Patrol O	Night 14/15 VENETIA, HOLDERNESS, CATTISTOCK. (N.O.I.C. Humber 1750/14)
Orkneys	State of A/S Trawlers (A.C.O.S., 1930/14 to Adty.)

Submarines

T.27 H.43	Your 1532/8/9. T.27 and H.43 on Patrols D4 and W2 respectively. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1810/14 to Adty.)
Adty's 1833/7/7	Greenock Area Movements (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1530/14)
CACHALOT	Is to be sailed with UTMOST and CUTTY SARK (V.A.S. 1732/14 to S. 2.)
TIGRIS	Patrol reports off Lorient 2/9 to 12/9. (V.A.S. 1341/14 to Adty., and 1557/14 to PORPOISE)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.3.1940.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

Calais
Dunkirk
Ostend
Antwerp

Details of A/C attacks during night 13/14 (H.Q.B.C. 0004/15. Summary No 424)

I should like to recommend for consideration that Air Attacks on enemy ports should mostly concentrate on Merchant Vessels in preference to barges for the following reasons:-
(A) Few barges are German owned so they will not mind losing them.
(B) In view of the vast quantity of Shipping now assembled it seems likely that many of the barges may be used merely as empty decoys.
(c) Barges by night are likely to have no one on board if we bomb ships we are more likely to kill Germans.
(D) A sunken ship may cause a serious obstruction but sunken barges are more easily removed.
In view of the above, suggest as a useful target the 20 M.V's now reported at Antwerp. (C. in C., Nore. 0920/14 to Adty.)

Belfast,
Balloon Barrage

From 0800/15 a Balloon Barrage will be flown at Belfast within 3 miles of centre of city. (Air Ministry 1202/14)

S. 16. B.

Cancelled today. (C. in C., Rosyth 1516/14 to Adty)

Rosyth Area

Air Searches for 15/9 (C. in C., Rosyth 1900/14)

Boulogne
Ostend

Details of A/C attacks during night 13/14 (H.Q.B.C., 1851/14 Summary No 423)

REVENGE
NEWCASTLE
EMERALD

Request cover against R/C A/C as well as against Bombers for these ships in Plymouth Sound from 0800/15 onwards. (C. in C., W.A. 1933/14 to H.Q.F.C.)

MOST SECRET

14.9.1940.
Saturday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity

Eastbourne	Coastguards report enemy A/C again bombed Eastbourne at 1505. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 1508/14 to C. in C., Portsmouth)
Lowestoft	Eight H.E. Bombs dropped 500 yards S.E. of Harbour Entrance at 1634/14 No damage or casualties (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1715/14 to Adty.)
Yarmouth	One unexploded H.E. and one oil bomb dropped inside R.N.B. compound. One H.E. and one unexploded H.E. on Yarmouth Front and one in sea. Several slight civilian casualties. (N.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1735/14 to Adty.)
Off Rattray Head	One Enemy A/C steering West at 57° 40' N., 1° 40' W., (Capt. D. 6. 2135/14 to Rosyth) Have engaged enemy Seaplane, (Capt D. 6. 2140/14 to Rosyth)
Distribution of Gas to Enemy Aerodromes	Your 2102/13. Report was mine and obtained from loyal, competent and convinced source. I assess grading as B. 3. (N.A. Stockholm 1318/14 to D.N.I.)

Mining

S.N. 42	Cancel my 2152/10. (Poroposal to sail S.N. 42 at 0700/15/9 for laying) (R.A.M.L. 0943/14 to Adty.)
F.D. 26	PORPOISE reports Operation F.D. 26 completed. Operation was ordered to be carried out near R.P.Q.R. 2400 (V.A.S. 1652/14 to Adty.)
Explosion	Coastguard Eastbourne reports explosion at sea 205° Langley Point one mile at 1720/14 (N.O.I.C., Newhaven 1727/14 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.9.1940.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Calais, Gris Nez, Ostend, Antwerp, Mouth of Scheldt, Terneuzen.	Particulars of M/V's and Barges observed during night 13/14 (H.Q.B.C. Summary No 423)
Hook	At 1127/14, three medium-sized Cargo & Ships at anchor, camouflaged silver and black. (H.Q.B.C. Summary No 424)
Rotterdam	At 1740/14. P.R.U. Sortie shows that enemy Ships and Barges seen on 6/9 have now left. (P.I.U. 0052/15)
Unknown Ships	Number of ships reported in 50° 35' N at 0328. Report if not your Force. (C. in C., Portsmouth 0440/14 to HAVELOCK
BISMARCK	Reported seriously damaged in Elbe when leaving harbour by R.A.F. raid a.m. 8 or 9/9. Graded A.1. (N.A. Belgrade 1032/13 to D.N.I.) Is grading A.1. reliable (D.N.I. 1944/14 to N.A. Belgrade)
Flushing	P.R.U. Sortie at 0815/14 shows 105 barges, 15 small Coasters, 25 large Tugs and Towing craft, one large tanker, one M/V about 3000 tons and 2 small Cargo Boats. (P.I.U. 14.5/14 to N.I.D.) My 1537/14. It is possible that the 5 ships of Cross Channel type reported to be off Flushing were German Ferry Steamers converted to Minelayers. (D.D.I.C. 1749/14 to C's in C.,) At 1310/14 about 1 mile off outer Harbour of Flushing 5 transports about 3000 tons at anchor (H.Q.C.C. 1819/14 to Adty.)
Off Portland	Enemy Surface Craft not larger than a destroyer reported at 2230/14 in 50° 20' N., 2° 15' W., Investigate (C. in C., W.A. 2253 and 2313/14 to WITHERINGTON) (C. in C., Portsmouth 2319/14 to SALADIN, SARDONYX)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.9.1940.
Saturday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

DYNAMO	British Coaster. Ashore on Salts Car half a mile N.E. of Redcar Pier. Tug ordered when tide changes. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 0820/14 to Adty.) Now re-floated. (N.O.I.C Hartlepool 1440/14 to Adty.)
PROTESILAUS	Your 2142/13. Request report of circumstances in which who was sunk by gunfire. (A.C.N.S.H. 1539/14 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)
BRITISH DOMINION	My 1054/13 Arrived Cape Town. (S.O.I Cape Town 1114/14)
BRITISH RENOWN	Liverpool 13/9 for Abadan. Not reported Cape of Good Hope (S.O.I. Cape Town 1114/14)
MANDALAY	Liverpool 13/9 for Istanbul. Not reported at Cape of Good Hope. (S.O.I. Cape Town. 1114/14)
CLAN MACTAGGART	Due Durban 10/9 from Penang. Not arrived. (S.O.I. Cape Town 1114/14)
BRITISH FREEDOM	Due Cape Town. 11/9. Not arrived. (S.O.I. Cape Town, 1114/14) .

MOST SECRET

14.9.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys	Shipping
S.C. 3.	OTTAWA and SIDENA to R.V. (C. in C., W.A., 1221/14)
S.L. 45 A & O.A. 214	Estimated position to meet (C. in C., W.A., 1450/14) O.A. 214 time and escort (N.C.S.O. Methil 0936/14) S.L. 45A Position (A.C.O.S. 0901/14)
W.S. 3.	Dates of leaving Mersey and Newport. (D. of S.T., 1942/14)
H.G. 43.	8 hours late (WELLINGTON, 1202/14)
W.M. 15.	WALLROY from Scapa joining p.m./15 (N.C.S.O. Greenock 1045/14)
O.G. 43.	Military transports to accompany (D. O.D. (F) 1947/14) See Operation "Menace"
O.A. 214.	Escort and time. (N.C.S.O. Methil 0936/14)
F.N. and F.S.	484. Commencing Monday 16th Sept. F.N. and F.S. Convoys will run alternate days at 8 knots and 7 knots in accordance with Adty. 1637/25/8 and 2032/10/S. Odd numbered F.S. and F.N. will be 8 knots. Remainder 7 knots. Timetables as in my 1714/14/9. (C. in C., Rosyth 1716/14)
O.A. 217	Route (D.T.D. 1641/14)
H.X. 73	Sailing telegram (N.O.i/c Halifax 1100/14)
H.X. 75	R.V. (N.O.i/c Halifax 1445/14)
S.H.X. 73	Military cargo in certain ships. (details) (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B. 1040/14)
Routes	Amending Admty. 1946/8. (D.T.D. 2130/10)
EXCHORDA	About 120 south of G.M.C.W. heading -for you 0800/14. (Valentia Radio 0906/14)

/WAIPAWA.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.9.1940.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping-Contd.

WAIPAWA — Master of WAIPAWA suggest that fast independent ships should discontinue having to make Rockfall as there usually appears to be an enemy S/M in vicinity and also because it is a dangerous landfall especially in winter or bad weather.
He considers fast ships should make more or less straight for North Channel doing exaggerated sig zags.
He estimates, having had a race with one, that speed of German SCHARNHORST class merchant ships fully laden is 21-22 knots. (F.O.I.C., Glasgow, 1746/14)

DUCHESS OF ATHOLL — Convoy A/C forthwith to pass this position 53° 0' N., 25° 0' N., 25° 0' W., (D.C. 2240/14)

"LEVER" — Code word of convoys O.L.

"LORRY" — Code word of convoys O.L.C. (D.T.D. 1800/14)

War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

14.9.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operation "Menace"

~~Patrol to locate French Force.~~

French Force referred to in my 1502/11 have left Casablanca but when we do not know. A patrol to prevent these ships reaching Dakar is to be established with all despatch. Every ship including CUMBERLAND which you or C.-in-C., S.A. can make available and which can do so without fuelling, to proceed on patrol forthwith. All remaining ships to join patrol after fuelling. If necessary ARK ROYAL must operate temporarily without a destroyer screen. French Force should if possible be located by ARK ROYAL's aircraft in daylight so that the communication which will be contained in Part 2. may be conveyed to them. It is accepted that this operation may necessitate the postponement of MENACE for a day or two but delay should be as short as possible.

(1st S.L.0016/14 to S.O.Force M.)

My 0016/14. Part 2.

When French Force is intercepted Senior Officer is to be informed that his force cannot be allowed to proceed to Dakar, which is under German influence, or to any port to the Southward of Dakar, but that his force may return to Casablanca. He is to be informed that you have orders to use force if necessary, but sincerely trust this may be avoided. If he makes the excuse that he cannot return to Casablanca without refuelling he is to be informed that fuel will be given him at Bathurst and a guarantee given that ships will not be detained. It will be necessary for CUMBERLAND to shadow the French force until they reach Casablanca.

(1st S.L.0115/14 to S.O. Force M

My 0016/14. General de Gaulle should be informed of the steps it has been necessary to take. It is hoped that he will raise no objection but even should he do so we cannot be deterred from action necessary to take in the general interest.

(1st S.L.0116/14 to S.O.Force M

War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

14.9.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operation "Menace"

CUMBERLAND — Orders to return to the United Kingdom cancelled. You will receive further instructions from F.O.C. Force M.

(V.C.N.S.0048/14 to CUMBERLAND).

Patrol Established. — DEVONSHIRE, AUSTRALIA, CUMBERLAND, are now on line ahead patrol in 016° North between 017° 30' W. and 018° 00' W. ARK ROYAL to the Southwestward. DEVONSHIRE and AUSTRALIA to leave patrol for Freetown to refuel 1900/15. Six destroyers join 1500/15.

(S.O. Force M.2300/14).

Military Convoy. — Intended to despatch following force to Gibraltar in PULASKI and CITY OF MOBILE in O.G.43 (date). 8th Battalion Argylls, one 3.7" battery less one troop, one troop anti-tank guns, Stores and M.T.

These are being sent as a reinforcement to your present force in case they be required for further operations, the nature of which will depend on the outcome of operations in hand. Troops will be required to live in the ships.

(D.O.D.(F) 1947/14 to F.O. Force M.)

Force A. — G.O.C. FORCE A. with all operation orders for landing has had to proceed with Naval ships and is now separated from Force A. He will endeavour to return to Freetown as soon as F.O. Force M. can release ship. (Gen.Spears, Sierra Leone, 2122/14 to W.O.)

Order from De Gaulle. — Telegram S.23 14/9.

De Gaulle's representative is on board DEVONSHIRE provided with order from De Gaulle to French ships either to rally immediately to free French Forces under his orders or to return without delay to Casablanca. Warning that in agreement with Allies decided to prevent by all means from continuing journey to any port whether it be in French Equatorial Africa or in French West Africa.

(F.O. Force M. 1012/14).

War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

14.9.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operation "Menace"

French Reaction, Warning.

Certain Operations which are contemplated in immediate future in the West African theatre may conceivably result in the Vichy Govt. either declaring war or ordering reprisals by air against Malta and Gibraltar and against any of H.M. Ships met at sea. You will take all preparatory measures to meet situation as affecting your command. (1st Sea Lord 1427/14 to all Cs.-in-C.

Dakar Reconnaissance.

S/m on the surface in position 260 Cape Manuel 7 course 260 10 Kts. 1533. Large amount shipping in Dakar harbour, details will be signalled when photographs are developed. Cannot say yet whether French Cruiser GEORGE LEYGUES force is there.

(ARK ROYAL 1708/14 to S.O. Force M.)

My 1708/14. Only Units positively confirmed from photographs French Battleships RICHLIEU alongside oil berth. Cruiser at buoy in Naval harbour probably PRIMAUGUET. Two destroyers class unknown alongside torpedo boat wharf. Seven to nine M/Vs. and one light cruiser in Dakar Roads. Intend keeping 50 miles clear of Cape Verde owing to submarines so as to arrive in position 16.05 18.45 at 0300 N/15 thence to position 15.06. 19.22 at 0600 to carry out patrol ordered and for further reconnaissances at Dakar.

(ARK ROYAL 2027/14 to F.O. Force M

RESOLUTION BARHAM.

RESOLUTION, BARHAM and 4 destroyers sail from Freetown 0530/15th. Speed of advance 16 Kts. passing outside 100 fathom line steering for position 270° Cape Verde 60 miles.

(C.-in-C., S.A.1859 N/14 to S.O., Force M.)

War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

14.9.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operation "Menace"

French Africa. Situation reports Nos.13 and 14 (D.N.I. 1816/14, 1825/14).

North Atlantic.

French Shipping. Your 1211/7 not to S.O.(I) Gibraltar. Admiralty unable to give assurances requested by French Naval Attache while French authorities remain unwilling to return British tonnage equivalent to the French ships already returned to France with Naval personnel.

(Head of M.1844/14 to N.A. Madrid).

ISLA DE TENERIFFE. My 1117/13. Further investigation convinced me no guns on board this (Spanish) vessel. (N.A. Madrid, 2107/14).

ARK ROYAL.
RESOLUTION.
BARHAM. My position course and speed 08.57 N. 14.39.W. 300 degrees, 14.5 Kts. RESOLUTION and BARHAM in company. RESOLUTION has 48 hours fuel at this speed. Destroyers proceeded into harbour. (ARK ROYAL to F.O. Force M.0400/14)

DEVONSHIRE
AUSTRALIA Position, course and speed at 1000 Z + 1. 11.23'N. 17.42 W. 357 degrees 27. Report your position, course and speed. (S.O. Force M. to CUMBERLAND and ARK ROYAL 0405/14).

Your 0259/14 just received. My 0400/14. RESOLUTION and BARHAM detached. My speed of advance now 25 Kts. (ARK ROYAL to F.O. Force M, 0601/14).

French Cruisers. It is of greatest importance to ascertain whereabouts by air reconnaissance of 3 cruisers of GEORGES LEYGUES class. (V.C.N.S. to F.O.C.N.A. 0826/14). Cancel my 0826/14. Reference F.O.C.N.A's 2354/13. It is of greatest importance to confirm or disprove by air reconnaissance the presence at Casablanca of 3 cruisers of GEORGES LEYGUES class. (V.C.N.S. 1415/14 to F.O.C.N.A.)

War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

14.9.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Your 1415/14 and my 2338/13. Air reconnaissance 0715 today confirmed no cruiser of French GEORGES LEYGUES class at Casablanca. Further photographic reconnaissance being made this p.m.

(F.O.C.N.A. 1632/14 to Admty.).

My 1632/14. No photographs or reconnaissance reports available this afternoon as reconnaissance aircraft is missing believed down on sea and now being searched for by ENCOUNTER. Consider it possible she may have been shot down as reconnaissance aircraft have been fired on by Casablanca on 4 occasions in last 48 hours and fighter aircraft have been twice observed taking off from Casablanca. Dawn reconnaissance will be carried out tomorrow 15th Sept.

(F.O.C.N.A. 2302/14).

My 1033/12. French Naval Attache informs me that these ships are to maintain order "with purely French means" in colonial empire and will move to points where their presence necessary.

(N.A., Madrid, 2051/14).

Destroyers. Refits.

Your 1258/11. Request you will report whether it is possible to complete refit of destroyers of 13th D.F. in less than 6 weeks at Gibraltar if work is restricted to essential items.

(D.O.D.(F) 2223/14 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic.

CORNWALL.

To increase to best possible speed and report time of arrival at Freetown when within 300 miles. (C.-in-C., S.A. 0127 N./14).

French Cruisers.

3 French cruisers of GEORGES LEYGUES type may be encountered. S.O. Force M. is to be included in addresses of any French war vessels sighted. (C.-in-C., S.A. 1115/14 to MOOLTAN).

War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

14.9.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

CARNARVON CASTLE.	When relieved by MOOLTAN proceed to 16.20 N. 19.20 W. and patrol as ordered by Force M, object to report any French warships sighted. (C.-in-C., S.A. 147/14).
CANTON.	Can remain until 1300/15 and then proceed best speed. (C.-in-C., S.A.1121/14).
DELHI, Patrol for French Ships.	To patrol at 14 Kts. along line through position 180° Cape three points 20'. 180° Cape Palmas 20'. 2 degrees N, 3 degrees W. Object to intercept French ships proceeding between French West African Ports and Ports North of Sierra Leone or between any area controlled by Vichy and Free French Ports. French merchant vessels intercepted, unless under Free French control, to be sent to Takoradi. French warships are for the present to be reported and shadowed. (C.-in-C., S.A. 1317/14).
CAPE RACE.	Your 0800/29. CAPE RACE arrived Durban 13/9. (S.O.I. Capetown to S.O.I. Freetown, 0834B./14).
French ships. Interception.	In order to clear up policy regarding French ships intercepted at sea south of Dakar, propose issuing following:- (i) French merchant ships unless definitely established as under free French control or proceeding in the interests of free French between free French ports, to be sent in, action to be reported. Ships will be informed of ports to be regarded as free French. (ii) French warships, unless definitely under free French control are to be told they cannot be allowed to proceed to French ports south of Dakar. Senior Officers are to be informed force will be used if necessary, but hope that this may be avoivded. Superior forces to be reported and shadowed. If requiring fuel, ship to be escorted to British Port and on leaving shadowed until North of Sierra Leone. Ships will be informed of any warships definitely free French. Ships otherwise to act in accordance with Admty. 0241/12/7, 2326/12/7 and 2033/28/8.

War Diary. MOST SECRET.

14.9.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

French Ships. Interception. (contd). Intend DELHI shall patrol route between Libreville, Pointe Noire Bay and Northern Ports, in order to be in position to intercept any ship required.

(C.-in-C., S.A. 1313/14 to Admty).

War Office. Action. Free French emissary embarked etc.

Destroyers. Sailed from Freetown with INGLEFIELD, ECHO, ECLIPSE, ESCAPADE, FURY and FORTUNE in company, 25 Kts.

Expect arrive R.V. 1500 N. tomorrow. (D.3. 1350/14 to F.O. M)

Freetown. Arrivals 1215. French sloops, COMMANDANT DOMINE and COMMANDANT DUBOC, H.M.S. RESOLUTION and BARHAM. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1509/14). Departures 1400/14. INGLEFIELD, ECHO, ECLIPSE, FORTUNE, FURY and ESCAPADE to rejoin S.O. Force M. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1531/14).

Gunfire. Report. St. Helena reports W/t signal heard calling British warship, enemy report, C.D.E.18, 1300/14. From THALIA gunfire heard, 19.28.S. 08.54 W. (C.-in-C., S.A.1638/14). THALIA via St. Helena reports gunfire heard 19.28.S, 08.54 W. 1300/14. British TASMADIA bound from Capetown to Trinidad is also in this vicinity. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1845/14).

A.P.2. Much appreciate progress AJAX and SYDNEY STAR are maintaining and hope you will be able to keep it up. (A.C.N.S.(A) to AJAX. 2331/14)

Mediterranean.

Cruiser attacked by S/m PARTHIAN. At 1435/31. PARTHIAN attacked ZARA class cruiser in position 037° 47' N. 018° 25' E., Fired 6 torpedoes at 3 sec. intervals, 13 and 14 secs. after firing 2 explosions were heard, indicating hits. C.O. considers that remaining torpedoes passed PARTHIAN depth-charged by second cruiser. Nothing in sight when PARTHIAN came to periscope depth at 1720.

War Diary. MOST SECRET.

14.9.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Cruiser attacked by S/m PARTHIAN (contd). It appears possible that this cruiser was sunk.

(C.-in-C., Med. 1947/14.)

French and Beirut. Your 1307/10. Admiral Godfroy is to be informed that his request cannot be granted. (Head of M. to C.-in-C., Med. 1519/14).

French shipping. Your 1515/13. Confirmed that position elsewhere in Mediterranean regarding French shipping remains as stated. (D.T.D. to C.-in-C., Med. 1848/14).

Convoy Routes, Disclosure. Your 1300/6, re disclosure of convoy routes. Necessary action will be taken to warn all military personnel disembarking Cape and West Africa for onward passage. Cable passed to Admty. and Air Ministry (W.O. to C.-in-C., M.E. 1445/14).

Shipping Committee. Consider early meeting essential. Subjects for discussion. (C.-in-C., Med to P.S.T.O. Egypt, etc. 1531/14).

Malta. Air Raid. Italian A/c raided Malta 2051 to 2115/14. Night fighters aided by searchlight forced them to drop bombs in sea.

East Indies.

POLYKTOR. (detached from B.N. 4. through lack of speed). My 0520/9. POLYKTOR now reported to have made S.O.S. at 0430Z/6. Position fiven as 15 W. of Zubair Island. Probably bombed. Investigations are being made. (C.-in-C., E.I. 1028Z/14).

Port Sudan W/T. Correction to 0440/11.

(S.O.I. Colombo, 1242Z/14).

War Diary. MOST SECRET.

14.9.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Keeling Islands. Reference C.O.S.(40) 307th Meeting, Item 4, conclusion (b), please inform us what guns can be made available by you for Coast Defence Keeling Islands Cable Station. No repeat no guns can be made available from Army sources. Question of manning personnel will be taken up with Commonwealth of Australia.

(War Office, No. T.O.O./14).

W.S.3. 1,200 personnel in CAPETOWN CASTLE and 1,500 in ASKA. Undesirable that these vessels should go beyond Cape - for onward conveyance, Bombay to arrange. (D. of S.T. 1943/14).

B.N.5. My 1410/13. Details of Naval cargo for Alexandria, Malta, etc. (S.S.T.O. India, 0630Z/14).

Suspicious Ship. Your 1020/12. Could this have been American EXCHANGE, sailed from Trinidad 27/8 for Karachi. (S.O.I. Colombo, 0800Z/14 to S.O.I. Capetown).

Convoys.
A.P.1.
A.P.2. My 1258/4 and 1436/4. Dates of arrival at Aden and Suez. My 1522/31/8 STRATHAIRD will arrive Suez with slow group W.S.2.A. (C.-in-C., E.I. 1126Z/14).

B.S.4½ Convoy sailing telegram. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area, 1346/14).

OTRANTO Proposed to embark 70 military personnel and 200 tons ammunition for Mombasa. Can ship be diverted accordingly? (S.S.T.O. Egypt, 2031/14 to C.-in-C., E.I.)

China.

Japan and Indo China. Reported that Vichy has ordered acceptance of Japanese demand. General and A.O. consider key to situation is arrival of fighter planes even if only a few as a gesture.

(G.O.C., Malaya, 0110/14 to W.O.)

War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

14.9.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

EMPRESS OF ASIA — Bombed in error by Japanese pilot off Oshima Island 1330/14. Japanese regret (Craigie, Tokio, 1829/14).

Dutch submarines. — Dutch Consul General informs me from 15/9 two or three Dutch submarines will be operating on or near route Sunde Straits to Mauritius as far as 075 East and asks that British Force may be warned accordingly. I have informed him that British Cruiser and A.M.C. may be encountered engaged on operation against enemy mider and have asked him whether his submarine will also operate against this raider.

(C.-in-C., China, 1617Z/14).

Raider. — Passing on appreciation of raided activities received from F.O.C.N.A. (W.D.I.C. to C.-in-C., China.1814/14).

America and West Indies.

DESPATCH and DUNEDIN — My 1819/11. To proceed to Clyde. (D.O.D.(F) to C.-in-C., A.& W.I. 1842/14) My 1652/11. DESPATCH delayed by steering engine breakdown. Intend to sail DUNEDIN independently from Bermuda p.m./1((C.-in-C., A. & W.I. 1231/14) DUNEDIN left route (C.-in-C., A. & W.I. 1853/14).

Jamaica Strike. — My 1233/9. Strike gradually fading out and situation decidedly improved, no delay with shipping now being experienced.

(N.O.I.C. Kingston, 1515/14).

War Diary. MOST SECRET.

14.9.40.
Saturday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

JOHANN FULBAUM. In difficulties. Baltic 11/9. Told to go to Memel. (D.S.375).

ROBERT LEY. Parent writing to a prisoner-of-war on 26/6 states "the giant ship DOKTOR LEY is lying at Pillau(D.S.375).

HELGOLAND. At Puesto Colombia. Report of 15/8 stated crew assembled and ship amply provisioned. Now reported that on 12/9 Officers only living on board and no sign of early sailing. (D.S.375).

SPARTA. Previously reported at Cagliori, Sardinia, now reported at Genoa. (D.S.375).

LARISSA. Arrived from Poti with manganese ore. (Galatz 1259/14).

ARKADIA. Arrived from Istanbul. (Galatz 1259/14).

ELSA ESSBERGER. Acting Consul General, Kobe, reported sailed 13/9 fully laden for unknown destination. (C.-in-C., China, 1553Z/14).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

DENTICE. (Scuttled off Masacaibo on 10/6). Refloated 3/9 and being towed to Puesto Cabello for internment by Venezuelan Govt. (D.S.375).

LAURA LAURO. At Casa, Brazil. Owners fear embargo for debt to Asiatic Petroleum Co. (D.S.375).

GUIDONIA. At Norfolk, owners protesting at being detained for debt. (D.S.375).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.9.1940.
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

ST. AGNES

British, 5199 tons. Torpedoed 41.30 N., 21.27 W., (Valentia Radio 0721/14) Corrected position 41.27 N 21.50 W., (Valentia Radio 0735/14) -Now abandoning ship. (Lands End Radio, 0850/14) Informing BULOLO and other ships (F.O.C.N.A., 1155/14)

HARPENDEN
(torpedoed 11/9)

Aircraft reports in position 54.45 N., 10.36 W., drifting 125° 2 knots. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1204/14) My position course and speed 54.41 N., 10.20 W., 050°, 4 knots. HARPENDEN in tow. Have raised steam in HARPENDEN and and she made little water during gale. (JASON 1040/14)

MIRD

Norwegian 4950 tons, attacked by submarine, position unknown. (Portishead Radio, 1931/14) Reported sunk, crew saved (D.S. 377)

H.M.S. FIJI
(torpedoed 1/9)

Admty. 1720/6, experience in FIJI before being torpedoed. Request full available details may be communicated so that R.D./F ships may distinguish it. (C. in C., H.F., 1228/14) Suitable receiving apparatus being embarked in HURRICANE (D.S.D. to C. in C., W.A., 1404/14)

Submarines Reported

0833

41.27 N., 21.50 W., (ST AGNES torpedoed) (C. in C., W.A., 0839/14)

1155

Enemy S/M bearing 000 distance 0 course 000, 7 knots, position 327 Cape Wrath 15. (F.O. Scapa Force, 1155/14, 1229/14)

0754

Bomber A/C report suspected S/M 58.05 N., 00.45 W., at conning tower depth (B.3) (C. in C., Rosyth 1256/14)

1341

Am over enemy S/M 58.59 N., 4.55 W. (A/C H.M.Ship, 1341/14) (Attacked 1345/14)

1300

S/M reported 1½ miles W.N.W. Watsness 60.14 N., 01.42 W., on surface at 1300. Very reliable source (C.3) (A.C.O.S. 1457/14, 1617/14)

/1320.....

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported-Contd.

1320 — D.F., probable U-Boat 58.10 N., 10.30 W., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1520/14)

1322 — D.F. probable U-Boat, between 55° N and wetward of 20° W., unreliable fix (D.D.I.C. 1530/14)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian 1 in 41 degs. 27' N., 21° 50' W., at 0819/14
1 between Portugal and Azores or farther south.

German 1 may possibly reach Lorient tonight and another tomorrow night.
1 far out in Atlantic probably south of 55° N., and may be moving south eastwards.
2 in N.W. Approaches of which 1 is probably to the northward of Rockall No news of the other.
1 between Faroes and North Rona homeward bound probably from far out in the Atlantic. (D.D.I.C. 1312/14)

Submarines Attacked

1345 — Enemy submarine previously reported (1341/14) sighted on surface and observed to submerge 58.59 N., 4.55W Have attacked. (A/C H.M. ship 1345/14)
Large air bubbles at frequent intervals track of bubbles 180° about 1 knot, last bubble 1510 (A/C H.M.Ship 1540/14)
Last bubble in position 58.44 N., 4.57 W suggest deeper settings for depth charges. (A/C of H.M. Ship 1606/14)
Searched, no result (MATABELE 2326/14)
Over large patch of oil in position 164, 59° N., 5° W., 14 (A/C of H.M. ship 1745/14)

1833 — Have attacked oil track in 58.43 N., 4.57 W., no results seen. Course of oil 270° expected time of arrival 1905 (A/C, H.M.Ship, 1833/14)

2231/2 TIGRIS — TIGRIS attacked and sank large U-Boat in 47.29 N., 04.04 W., outward bound, course 240°, range 350 yards (V.A.S. 1341/14)

/1348...

MOST SECRET

14.9.1940.
Saturday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Attacked-Contd

1348/10
STURGEON

At 1348/10 in position 57° 14' N., 06° 04' E. STURGEON attacked U-Boat steering 340 range 7000 yards. Loud explosions at 1354 and H.E. ceased. 1355 U-Boat not in sight and remaining 5 torpedoes heard to detonate two minutes later. Position passed through 3 hours later no oil seen then but wind force 6 may have drifted it.
Presence of Danish fishing vessels and negative M.D.U. report suggest no mines on a line 070° from 57° 06' N., 7° 00' E to Swedish coast. (V.A.S., 1819/14)

Verifying Attacks

When attacks on U-Boats are carried out and are thought to be successful submarines should circumstances permit close position of U-Boat without delay and endeavour to verify their success. (F.O. (S) 1911/14)

Mediterranean & East Indies

During air raid on Malta 14/9 enemy submarine contact obtained and attacked by JADE on patrol. Heavy rumblings heard after second pattern had exploded. No details or position given. (D.S. 377)

Italian Submarine Tactics

When returning from patrol E. of Tobruk a submarine sighted certain lights (details). Lights may have been shown to decoy submarines or as a guiding beacon for enemy submarines entering or leaving harbour. Care should be exercised accordingly. (Capt. S.I. 2147/14 to 1st S.L.S/M F)

MOST SECRET

15.9.1940.
Sunday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

DUNDEE Sunk

DUNDEE was torpedoed and sunk today in the North Western Approaches while escorting Convoy S.C. 3 from Nova Scotia.

3 other Ships Sunk

SS. EMPIRE VOLUNTEER and SS ALEXANDROS in the same convoy were also torpedoed, and SS KENORDOC was sunk by gunfire from a U-Boat in the North Western Approaches this morning.

SHEFFIELD

SHEFFIELD has been placed under the orders of C.S. 18 until further orders.

Readiness

All ships ~~now~~ were at immediate notice for steam last night.

British Air Operations

Attacks were continued last night on the enemy's preparations for invasion. Naval objectives were shipping, barges and dock installations at Boulogne, Calais, Ostend and Dunkirk. Weather was unfavourable during part of the night and results were mostly unobserved, though in all cases bombs wereddropped in the target areas and on shipping, causing fires and explosions.

The gun positions at Cape Gris Nez were also attacked.

Widespread damage was caused last night by a large number of aircraft, to the dockyards and installations at Antwerp, and to shipping at the port.

Hits were registered on a Canal south of Terneuzen and on barges in a canal near Zutphen, on the dock at Ijmuiden; and a patrol store at Flushing was successfully attacked.

Certain day operations against Belgian and French Channel ports were abandoned on account of the weather, though shipping off Boulogne and Le Touquet was attacked, and also a convoy of

/10.....

MOST SECRET

15.9.1940.
Sunday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Operations-Contd.

merchant vessels, 2 E-Boats and possibly 4 or 5 more, also 40 trawlers or barges off Ameland, escorted by two destroyers or armed vessels.

A Beaufort torpedoed a merchant vessel at Ijmuiden

At 2105 an aircraft bombed a merchant vessel in convoy off Ameland and believed sank it.

At 2030 today a Whitley dropped a 250lb bomb on an enemy cruiser south of Terschelling and saw the bomb burst on the vessel.

Many photographs of invasion bases were taken.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.9.1940.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Operations-Contd.

The enemy delivered two major attacks on London today. Information received up to 0600/16 shows that fighters destroyed 178 aircraft (124 bombers and 53 fighters) plus 41 probable and 72 damaged, while A.A. destroyed 7 plus 4 probable. British losses were 25 aircraft and 13 pilots.

The SS PORT AUKLAND reports having shot down a German bomber when in Barking Reach this afternoon; the aircraft crashed in flames near Woolwich Arsenal.

M/S Trawlers LIBRA and CONQUISTADOR destroyed an enemy A/C by gunfire in the Thames Estuary this morning. The aircraft which was probably a mine-layer, exploded in mid-air.

SS NAILSEA RIVER in Convoy S.L.A. 45 was attacked at 0030 and sank later off the Firth of Tay, believed torpedoed by A/C.

SS CORONDA was bombed and damaged in the North Western Approaches this morning and was towed to the Clyde by a tug.

SS REGENT LION was attacked and suffered some casualties this morning in Convoy H.X. 70.

SS HALLAND was attacked at 2200 today and sunk off Dunbar. She was in convoy F.N. 79.

LONDONDERRY and several merchant ships in the anchorage claim to have hit the enemy aircraft; and at 0759/16 an S.O.S. was intercepted from a German aircraft down in the sea off Tynemouth, which may be LONDONDERYY's target.

SS CROSBY, proceeding independently was attacked this morning off Eathlin Island and set on fire.

/SS.MEDWAY COAST

MOST SECRET

15.9.1940.
Sunday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Operations-Contd.

SS MEDWAY COAST was unsuccessfully attacked off Aberdeen by an aircraft which fired two torpedoes at her.

Dover was bombed this forenoon, ~~but~~ the bombs falling in Langdon Battery, in the Town, and in the harbour. During the afternoon there was another attack, during which H.M.Trawler BOTANIC was seriously damaged and KINGSTON CHRYSOBERYL slighly damaged.

Damage was done to Aviation Works at Southampton today.

A number of unexploded bombs fell near the docks at Cardiff.

Portland was attacked by 35 bombers at 1531. Some damage was caused, and there are several unexploded time bombs.

Mining

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night is suspected off Aberdeen, Firth of Forth, Holy Island, Hartlepool, Humber, Milford Haven and in the Bristol Channel.

Mines or bombs were dropped early this morning in Crosby Channel.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.9.1940.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

French Force

Air reconnaissance today showed the 3 French cruisers to be in Dakar, and a fourth cruiser in the bay.

CUMBERLAND, DEVONSHIRE and AUSTRALIA are patrolling off Dakar, with ARK ROYAL operating to the westward of them. Three destroyers left Freetown at 0515 to join ARK ROYAL, and RESOLUTION and BARHAM left three hours later, but these battleships and destroyers returned at 2230 to prepare for further operations.

CORNWALL is at Freetown, and DELHI patrolling off French Guinea as ordered yesterday.

RENOWN and 3 destroyers are refuelling at Gibraltar.

South Atlantic

Raider

CARNARVON CASTLE was ordered at 1611 to proceed to cover shipping on the Cape - Sierra Leone trade route, a raider having been reported yesterday in the South Atlantic.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.9.1940.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Operations by Light Forces

The sweep by the 3rd C.S. and destroyers to the Dardanelles and Gulf of Salonika has been curtailed on account of an operation which C. in C., Meditn. intends VALF to carry out with ILLUSTRIOUS and VALIANT.

Destroyers, state

The state of the Mediterranean Destroyer Command is the subject of a signal today.

Air Attack on Malta

Hal Far aerodrome was attacked early today and some damage was caused.

East Indies

Assab bombed

3 Blenheims today dropped bombs on the Naval barracks at Assab.

INDUS Bombed

H.M.I.S. INDUS was unsuccessfully bombed this morning in the Southern Red Sea.

Protection of Shipping

C. in C., E.I. is seriously concerned at the losses of shipping on his station which have been caused by raiders, and proposes certain measures for the better protection of merchant shipping.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.9. 1940.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

SHEFFIELD

a.m. 1213/13. SHEFFIELD will be administered by C.S. 18 until further orders. (D.O.D. H. 1359/15)

Campbeltown or Lamlash

F.O.I.C. Greenock's 1910/7 and V.A.S. 1024/9. Request your views as to whether defence of Lamlash should replace that of Campbeltown. On the whole appears preferable to proceed with Campbeltown and consider Lamlash later. Early decision required. (A.C.N.S. H. 1817/15 to C. in C., W.A.) Request your remarks. (C. in C., W.A. 2341/15 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

Oban

Air Ministry Letter S 4367/S.6/19/3. Request Air Ministry to arrange further meeting as of extreme urgency to examine use of Oban for Flying Boats and as Minelaying Base. R.A.M.L. to send representative. (Head of M. 2307/15 to Air Ministry)

French Warships

Future policy for these ships must soon be determined for two reasons. First is that it is only by local consent that the Captains accept orders from the Senior Officers of the organisations in which I have placed them and are evidently expecting orders from Admiral Muselier to depart from here for other climes.
Second is that Liaison Officers are R.N.V.R. Officers who speak French which is only one of the requirements. We can rub along at the moment but it is not a situation that can continue for long. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1907/15)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.9.1940.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Expected Attack on South Coast Guns	Confirming conversation between S.A.S.O. and D.D.M.O. Reliable information received that enemy are making special dispositions for air attack on British long range guns on south coast. Stuka attacks are to be expected in the immediate future. (Air Ministry 1320/15 September to Fighter Command)
W.A. Command	Appreciation of situation in W.A. Command as to Invasion and intended dispositions to deal with it. (C. in C., W.A. 1327/15 to Adty.)
Notice for Steam	My 2156/13. Ships in Nore, Dover, Portsmouth and W.A. Commands, less those in Clyde, are to be at immediate notice for steam. Remainder to be at one hours notice for steam. (A.C.N.S. H. 1920/15)
Rosyth Escort Force	Boiler cleaning programme should be resumed. But one ship only is to be out of action at a time. (V.C.N.S. 2220/15 to C. in C., Rosyth.)

Movements

Portsmouth Eastern Channel Patrol	Extend Patrol as far East as possible returning as ordered in my 1633/14. You may enter Dover Command. (C. in C., Portsmouth 0011/15 to WOLVERINE, BERKELEY, VANOC, VOLUNTEER) request Fighter protection (C. in C., Portsmouth 1151/15 to H.Q.F.C.)
CAIRO	Returns to Scapa 17/9 and is to give A/A cover to Convoys in Moray Firth and near Kinnaird Head. (C. in C., H.F. 1033/15 to R.A.D.)
ESMERALDA	H.M. Yacht. Intend sailing at 0200/16 for Portsmouth. Expect arrive Needles 0630/16 (F.O.I.C. Portland, 1205/15 to Adty.)

A/S Trawlers.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.9.1940.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements-Contd.

A/S Trawlers & Yachts in Western Approaches	My 0243/14 and Adty. 1938/14 Trawlers and Yachts allocated as follows. (C. in C., W.A. 1243/15 to Adty.)
Portsmouth	Movements for night 15/16 (C. in C., Portsmouth 1407/15 to Adty.)
LAURENTIC	Position at 1930/16 55° 30' N., 10° W speed 14½ knots (LAURENTIC 1415/15 to C. in C. W.A.).
Sheerness Anti-E-Boat Patrol	D. 21 is to detail 3 destroyers to leave Sheerness at 1900, patrol between No 1 and No 10 Buoys, leave No 1 Buoy at 0530/16, and return Sheerness (C. in C., Nore 1444/15 to D. 21) ICARUS, VESPER, GARTH detailed (D. 21 1559/15 to C. in C., Nore)
Portsmouth Eastwards Patrol	Night 15/16, HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER VISCOUNT, BULLDOG patrol Eastward as far as Lydd. (C. in C., Portsmouth) (1527/15 to Adty.)
Norther Patrol	Trawler lines occupied to-day. (A.C.O.S. 1536/1536/15)
Dover Patrols	Night 15/16 (V.A.Dover 1744/15 and 1902/15)
HALCYON	Probably ready to sail a.m./18. Request sailing order (N.O.I.C. Middlesborough 1130/15 to N.O.I.C. Harwich)

Operations

12 large fishing vessels known to be on passage from Greenland to Sudero Faeroes will probably try and pass Dimon or Skua Fiords. A.M.C's on patrol and Norther Patrol Trawlers are to endeavour to intercept these and divert them through Skipen or Hesto Fiords. (F.O.C.N.P. 1125/15 to Norther Patrol)

My 1125/15 detail one trawler to patrol 10 miles to the westward of Dimon and Skuo Fiords to assist in interception. (F.O.C.N.P. 1127/15 to S.O.N.T. Kirkwall)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.9.1940
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines

PORPOISE) TAKU)	To leave Patrol and arrive Falmouth a.m./20th. Route. (Capt. S. 2. 1017/15 to PORPOISE)
Brest	Regret no S/M available for Patrol off Brest (A.C.N.S. H. 1536/15 to C. in C., W.A.)
Positions	For following 24 hours at 0700/16 (V.A.S. 1714/15)
Adty. 1833/7/7	Greenock Area Movement (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1728/15)
Adty. 1532/8/9	L. 27 and H. 43 on Patrols D4 and W. 2 respectively (C. in C., Portsmouth 1830/15)
TRIDENT) TALISMAN)	Reports of sighting M/V's on 4/9 and 9/9 respectively (V.A.S. 1857/15)

British Air Activity

Bomber Command	Reports received from 0001 to 1200/15 (Bomber Command Intelligence Summaries Nos 425, 429)
Western Channel	Your 1927/13. H.Q.C.C. are arranging R/C of Western Channel as by their 1240/14 to 15 group. (A.C.N.S. H. 1536/15 to C. in C., W.A.)
Rosyth. Barrage Balloons	Request early approval for Balloons to be flown from two additional sites for so long as Major Units of fleet are at Rosyth. (D. of L.D. 1831/15 to Air Ministry)
Information to N.L.O. F.C. During Invasion	Request that N.L.O.F.C. be instructed to ask at once for any information he requires as to Movements and Positions of Warships while repelling an Invasion to ensure adequate Fighter support for them. (C. in C. H.F. 1940/15 to Adty.)

/Off Ameland.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.9.1940.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity-Contd.

Off Ameland — At 2105/15 A/C bombed one M/V in Convoy at 53° 30' N., 5° 45' E., and believed sunk her. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 0325/16)

Off Terschelling Cruiser Bombed — At 2030/15 in 53° 20' N., 5° 30' E., A/C bombed one Cruiser and claims one hit. (Bomber Command Summary No 427)

Enemy Air Activity

MAILSEA RIVER — My 0216. Sank at 0402 in about 56° 41' N., 2° 5' W., FANDANGO reports ship was attacked by Heinkel Bomber at 0030 (C. in C., Rosyth, 0537/15 to N.O.I.C. Aberdeen)

CROSBY — Help. Am being attacked by enemy A/C 120° Rathlin Island 10 miles. (CROSBY 0643/15 to Ardrossan W/T) A/C still in area (ARAB 0703/15 to Ardrossan)

ST. APOLLO — Am being attacked 120° Rathlin Island 10 miles. (ST. APOLLO 0641/15 to Ardrossan) Fighters sent. (Plymouth W/T 0720/15)

CORONDA — Bombed 0600 at 58° 7' N., 9° 24' W., Portishead Radio 0605/15) Request tug be sent from Stornoway. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0746/15 to A.C.O.S. Proceed to assist SUPERMAN towing CORONDA (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0801/16 to SALVONIA) Dutch tug THAMES sailed (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 0844/15 to N.O.I.C Greenock) Tug SUPERMAN arrived Clyde towing CORONDA 5 (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1450/16 to Adty.

Yarmouth — Bombe fell 1600/14 on R.N. Barracks exploded 0030/15. No casualties. Very large crater. Repairs in hand. (Works, Shotley 1152/15 to Navy Works, Bath)

/Chatham.....